Daily Report

East Europe

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Thursday
17 January 1991

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NOTICE TO READERS: * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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End of CEMA, New Trading System Viewed

AU1601151691 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 8 Jan 91 p 3

[Kocsi editorial: "CEMA"]

[Text] CEMA is dead, long live...? What exactly should live? Perhaps a new regional economic organization, which will certainly have to guarantee normal cooperation, seeing this as one of its main functions. Indeed, if nothing else gives us a clue, then at least the chaotic tourism situation clearly tells us that we cannot talk simply about the demise of CEMA.

Indeed, until now, "tourism" had just meant "former socialist states" for a lot of people....If that situation comes to an end now, gates will close, and despite our newly opened wider borders, our isolation may become greater than it had been before.

In any case, none of the former socialist countries have enough hard currency at their disposal. We not only lack the amount that would be necessary for tourism, we also lack the funds that would help us finance the settlement of our foreign trade. Under these circumstances, we should aim for a compromise—to whatever extent possible—so that at least human relations and tourism are not negatively affected by our new accounting system. So far, it has been difficult to reach a compromise. Until now, Hungary has only been able to come to an agreement with Czechoslovakia, therefore, tourism has been able to continue. Exchange rate disputes with other former CEMA countries have made even partial agreements difficult....

If we take a look at foreign trade, the situation is perhaps even more difficult. The system of immediate payment has been abandoned, from now on, not even the exporters of our region will be paid immediately; at least the old system used to stimulate deliveries. In fact, the question now is whether exporters will receive their payments at all? So, it would be wise to be on the alert and to procure some bank guarantees....

For some time to come, the lack of convertible currencies could represent the greatest—and an almost insurmountable—problem for us. That is precisely why old, tested trading methods from our ancient communities may come to the fore again, like "goods for goods," that is, various forms of bartering. That would still be better than nothing....Indeed, let us not forget that most of the countries we are talking about are geographically close, and in many areas, they complement one another. So, it would really be in nobody's interest to break off relations. On the other hand, it should be everybody's aim to place the economy on real economic bases.

Therefore, the creation of a new regional economic organization could be a good solution, even though many people would perhaps rather forget about the whole region, given the history of CEMA. That attitude is also understandable, but it could only provide a short-term solution. There may well be a struggle in the future, and it may well be that our whole trading system will be even more primitive than it was at the time of the transferable ruble.

In the long run, however, the situation will also settle down in this area. If not, then the funeral of CEMA will unavoidably be followed by the death of bilateral relations....

Skubiszewski Rejects Lithuania-Pact Linkage

LD1601060191 Prague CTK in English 1141 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw Jan 15 (CTK)—Polish Foreign Minister Krzystof Skubiszewski has made it clear that Poland will not link the Lithuania issue with Polish withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact.

Skubiszewski reacted to the proposal of Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier that Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland discuss joint steps to accelerate their withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact in protest against the Soviet Army actions in Lithuania. The meeting will probably take place in Budapest next week.

The daily "RZECZPOSPOLITA" said today that according to the Polish minister, withdrawal from the Warsaw Treaty will not come up for discussion in Budapest where only coordination of the three countries' steps is to be debated. The Warsaw Treaty issue should be discussed without delay, but separately.

Also the army daily "POLSKA ZBROJNA" quoted Skubiszewski as favouring separation of the two issues.

Yugoslavia Urges Saddam To Withdraw From Kuwait

LD1601151191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1252 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Belgrade, 16 Jan (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia today sent an appeal to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and to all the parties involved in the Gulf crisis, so that peace may be preserved. Yugoslavia is sending this appeal as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, stressing that in the future it will expend maximum effort for a peaceful solution of the crisis.

The Yugoslav appeal says:

"As chairman of the Nonaligned Movement Yugoslavia believes that at this crucial time all the factors involved in the crisis in the Gulf should pause and reflect again on the dangers implicit in an armed conflict that can have unforseeable consequences. This is why Yugoslavia is addressing this appeal in these dramatic hours primarily to President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi leadership to make their contribution, so that in the interest of their own country and people, security throughout that area, and stability of the world, peace may be preserved. This appeal is being sent at a time when the Nonaligned Movement, whose founding members include Iraq, has itself been put on a historic trial, and when more than ever before it must confirm the universal validity of the principles of peace and the peaceful solution of problems.

"Yugoslavia believes that it still is not too late for the principle of law and of peace, which is the essence of the UN Charter and also an imperative for a new climate in international relations and for every actor on the international scene, to be asserted by Iraq by its display of good will and by making the first step by withdrawing from Kuwait, which is a member country of the Nonaligned Movement. This would make it possible for all directly involved parties and the entire international community finally to take on their share of responsibility for peace and security in the Gulf area and in the Middle East, primarily regarding the solution of the Palestinian problem and the soonest possible convocation of an international conference on the Middle East.

"Yugoslavia, as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, fully endorses the latest statement by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. Yugoslavia is ready to go on being fully involved so that reason should prevail against a military catastrophe and a way can be opened for the building of a stable peace and security for all the countries and peoples in the region."

Czech Envoy Supports Global Nuclear Test Ban

LD1101105991 Prague CTK in English 0847 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] New York, Jan 11 (CTK)—Czechoslovakia believes that a global nuclear test ban should be asserted gradually in new conditions of the development of international relations, Czechoslovak Permanent Representative in the U.N. Eduard Kukan said here yesterday.

He added that use should be made of the Soviet-U.S. dialogue and multilateral negotiations at the conference on disarmament in Geneva should be extended.

Czechoslovakia's independent foreign policy favours a total nuclear test ban as an inseparable part of the process of the limitation and liquidation of nuclear weapons. According to Czechoslovakia the number of explosions a year should be radically reduced, Kukan said.

Addressing a conference on amending the nuclear test ban treaty by a ban on underground nuclear tests, he voiced satisfaction with the present observance of the treaty. On the other hand, however, the treaty has failed to stop the nuclear arms race and has not met the hope of non-nuclear states for reaching a total nuclear test ban soon, Kukan said.

PPSh, Opposition Agree To Postpone Elections

AU1601193891 Tirana ATA in English 1905 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Tirana, January 16 (ATA)—The representatives of the Party of Labour of Albania [PPSh], the Democratic Front of Albania, the Democratic Party of Albania, the Republican Party of Albania, the Ecological Party of Albania, the Trade Unions of Albania, the Labour Youth Union of Albania, the Women's Union of Albania and the National Committee of the War Veterans of the Albanian People in a meeting they had on January 16, at the initiative and under the presidency of the chairman of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, Comrade Ramiz Alia, agreed as to the following:

Taking into consideration the grave economic and political situation the country is in and aiming at avoiding dangers of the further aggravation of the social conflicts, leading to disorder of production and anarchy, they agreed to address to the whole people, the workers, peasants, youth, intellectuals with the appeal to interrupt strikes and demands for wage increases till May 1, 1991.

They are of the opinion that in order to realise genuinely free pluralist and democratic polls, it is necessary that a tranquil situation be created and the public order be maintained.

This situation is necessary also to provide the government with the necessary time to study and formulate the respective laws regarding the wages and prices which would solve the problems that have emerged in the economic relations between the working people and the state, as well as to those created by the new economic reform between the enterprises and citizens.

The representatives of the above mentioned parties and organisations agreed to suggest to the Presidium of the People's Assembly, under the situation created, to afford the possibility to the newly created parties to forward their candidates to the coming elections, to postpone the elections until March 31 1991.

Official Interviewed on Valias Mine Strike

AU1601203291 Tirana ATA in English 0935 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Report on interview with Besnik Bekteshi, head of the governmental group, by unidentified reporter on 15 January; place not given]

[Text] Tirana, January 16 (ATA)—In his interview with the television on January 15, evening, concerning the decisions of the Council of Ministers to overcome the situation created in Valias mine, the head of the governmental group, Besnik Bekteshi, said among others:

The Council of Ministers adopted a very important decision for the increase of wages, which now amounts from 320 to 360 leks for each worker, an increase of about 40 per cent averagely for the underground workers. On a national scale the government's decision belongs not only to Valias mine, but also to all the mines of our country for the workers in the pit and outside it. It is a wage increase amounting to a value of 175 million leks for the workers of this system. This decision was adopted due to the economic situation of our country, and presupposes the guarantee of this fund without augmenting production. This thing should be correctly realized by Valias, which is an inefficient mine. Hence, in 1991 it is planned a sum of 22 million leks from the state budget to cover the losses and with the new decision for the wage increases this loss amounts to nearly 35 million leks.

Besides others, for Valias, an important decision was adopted regarding the electromechanical sector working in the pit, equalling the age of retirement with that of the miners, that is 50 years, from 55 that was before. Actually our state cannot meet other demands for wage increases that might be put forward by other sectors of the economy.

The indispensability of resuming work in the mine is vital for both the workers and the perspective of the mine. If the miners will not resume work, there will be no juridical justification for the self-closing of the mine.

Relating to the meeting the governmental group had with representatives of the political and social subjects, I might say that we considered this as a normal way for the development of the talks in the context of the political pluralism and dialogue. The dialogue we had with them is effective. We arrived at the conclusion that we did (?enter) into dialogue with Valias miners and this dialogue will continue.

Plaka Meets With Swedish, Austrian Officials

AU1501145091 Tirana ATA in English 1020 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Tirana, January 15 (ATA)—On the way back to Albania, the foreign deputy minister of Albania, Sokrat Plaka, was received by the minister of foreign affairs of Sweden, Sten Andersson, with whom he conducted a warm and friendly conversation. Likewise, during the leg in Austria he was received by the minister Loeschnak, acting minister of foreign affairs of Austria at present.

In Vienna, the Albanian deputy minister met also with the secretary of state under the chancellery in the premier's office, Peter Jankowitsch, and the executive secretary of the CSCE, Helmut Lindermann.

In these meetings which were conducted in a friendly atmosphere, opinions were exchanged on bilateral questions on the promotion and further consolidation of cooperation and on various international problems.

The negotiators evaluated positively the process of democratization in Albania and its correct steps to join the European processes.

President Zhelev Hopes For Short Gulf War

AU1701104791 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1000 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] In connection with questions from many news agencies about the position of the Bulgarian president toward the Persian Gulf war, Ivaylo Danailov, BTA reporter, met a spokesman of the president of the Republic.

The spokesman pointed out that at the beginning of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait the Bulgarian position toward the aggressor was firm and categorical. Bulgaria demanded that the UN Security Council resolutions be strictly implemented. We strictly adhered to the embargo against Iraq, despite the fact that Bulgaria is the country that suffered most after Kuwait, the victim of the aggression. The Bulgarian Parliament adopted a decision to send a Bulgarian contingent to the Persian Gulf region. It did not go there, however, because we did not receive the necessary permission from Saudi Arabia.

President Zhelev regrets that a peaceful solution to the conflict could not be found because of Saddam Husayn. The Bulgarian president hopes that this will be the shortest war and a bloodless war. May it be the last war.

In connection with the increased protection of certain foreign embassies in Sofia, Valentin Stoyanov, presidential spokesman, said that the decision had been coordinated at the last meeting of the National Security Council, chaired by the chairman of the Republic. It was adopted because it was assumed that under conditions of a military conflict a danger could emerge for the diplomats of the countries involved in the conflict. Bulgaria is obligated to guarantee their complete safety. In fact there was information that supported this decision.

Government Urges Iraq To Comply With UN

AU1601130991 Sofia BTA in English 1254 GMT 16 Jan 91

["Declaration of the Government on the Gulf Crisis;" place and date not given]

[Text] Sofia, January 16 (BTA)—The Bulgarian Government once again appeals to the Iraqi leaders to consider the gravity of the situation, to show wisdom and responsibility and immediately take steps to observe the UN Security Council's resolutions, says the declaration of the Bulgarian Government on the Gulf crisis, which was made public today. The declaration points out the government's conviction that at this juncture it is necessary to show political composure and to go on with the diplomatic efforts to find a peaceful way out of the crisis. It states Bulgaria's readiness to cooperate for that.

The possibility of eruption of a military conflict with unpredictable parameters and consequences due to the excessively unstable and explosive situation in the Gulf is sharply increasing. Our uneasiness is increased by Bulgaria's immediate nearness to the region, the government's declaration says.

In its declaration the government points out once again Bulgaria's stand of principle that peace in the region cannot be achieved without Iraq's complete and unconditional withdrawal, without the restoration of the sovereignty, territorial entity and the legitimate government of Kuwait. The Bulgarian Government entirely supports the UN Security Council's resolutions, resolution 678 included.

Protection of Foreign Embassies Increased

AU1601130091 Sofia BTA in English 1239 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Sofia, January 16 (BTA)—The guard of the foreign missions in Bulgaria has been reinforced, including the embassies of the Arab countries, Israel and the countries which have sent their military units to join the international forces in Saudi Arabia.

The measures are taken on the instructions of the National Coordinating Staff set up in connection with the Gulf crisis, a spokesman for the staff has announced.

Today's TRUD writes that the National Service for the Protection of the Constitution has its representative in the National Coordinating Staff for the Gulf crisis. The Constitution Protection Service which is engaged in combating terrorism is closely following all information released, processing and analyzing it every day.

The spokesman for the National Service points out in TRUD that for the time being there are not categorical data to show that arrangements are made for acts of terrorism against Bulgaria.

'No Casualties' Among Nationals in Baghdad

AU1701105691 Sofia BTA in English 0837 GMT 17 Jan 91

[From the "Press Review"]

[Excerpt] Sofia, January 17 (BTA)—Every 15 minutes the Bulgarian Radio reports of the progress of the events in the Gulf. It aired directly the speech of the U.S. President. The Bulgarian Embassy in Baghdad reported that there are no casualties among the Bulgarians there. Since this morning the Bulgarian TV has been retransmitting the CNN reports. [passage omitted]

Civil Defense Statement on Protective Measures

AU1601195291 Sofia BTA in English 1239 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Sofia, January 16 (BTA)—The Civil Defence Headquarters published an announcement today about the measures which will be taken if the need arises for the

protection of the population in connection with the Persian Gulf crisis. Concrete instructions will be aired by radio and television.

More Protests Against Use of Force in Vilnius

AU1601220191 Sofia BTA in English 2125 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Sofia, January 16 (BTA)—This evening the hosts of the central news broadcast of the Bulgarian Television kept a minute of silence in memory of the victims of the military in Lithuania.

Protest demonstrations against the use of force in Lithuania were held in some large towns of the country. Slogans such as "Freedom for Lithuania!" and "Gorbachev lied to us" were raised in Ruse. The protest demonstrations in Sofia were held in the past few days.

Parties and public organizations published declarations in connection with the events in Lithuania. The mildest ones express concern but most of them contain categorical protests against the use of force.

In its statement today the Nikola Petkov Bulgarian Agrarian Party said that the annexation of Lithuania was the outcome of the Hitler-Stalin Pact and that the preservation of the consequences of this act was immoral. The agrarians insist on the immediate restoration of Lithuania's sovereignty.

In their letter of today the editors of several opposition papers in the city of Varna express their protest against the Bolshevik and imperial manner of action against Lithuania. So far only one organization—the Bulgarian Revolutionary Party in Varna—has declared itself against the demonstrations in support of Lithuania, describing the activities of the Soviet Army as "completely legal and constitutional, guaranteeing order in the USSR."

Assembly Declaration on Lithuanian Situation

AU1601213791 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1841 GMT 16 Jan 91

["Declaration of the Grand National Assembly in Connection With the Events in the Baltic Republics," read by Stefan Savov at the Grand National Assembly in Sofia—live]

[Text] We, the people's deputies of the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria, are seriously alarmed by the actions of the central Soviet authorities in Lithuania. We are concerned by the application of military force that has led to human casualties among the peaceful population.

We express our concern about the fate of the all-European process. A destabilization in East Europe would not only hamper the settlement of major economic, social, and ecological problems in the region, but would also threaten European security.

Remaining loyal to the new international spirit, which only can (?guarantee) life for great and small, strong and weak states, Bulgaria rejects the use of armed force in the solving of internal and international conflicts.

Therefore, the Grand National Assembly supports the demand by the Lithuanian Parliament that normal conditions be guaranteed for the activity of the legally elected authorities in the republic.

We appeal to the USSR Supreme Soviet and the parliaments of the individual republics to decide the issues of self-determination of the Baltic peoples only by means of dialogue.

The recognition of this wish of the republics would only mean to comply with the historical facts and with the real political situation in the Baltic region.

Organization Condemns Lithuanian Action

AU1601152791 Sofia BTA in English 1411 GMT 16 Jan 91

["Movement for Rights and Freedoms Condemns Use of Force in Lithuania"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, January 16 (BTA)—"I think that Bulgaria's continued membership in the Warsaw Pact after what happened in Lithuania calls into question the country's national security," said Mr. Ahmed Dogan, leader of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS), at a news conference today. Mr. Dogan specified that in parliament the DPS will support the stand of the Union of Democratic Forces on a review of Bulgaria's participation in the Warsaw Treaty. The DPS leader believes that the matter of Bulgaria's accession to NATO should be considered, too, and, if necessary, should be decided by a referendum.

The leadership of the DPS parliamentary faction today circulated a declaration in which the movement condemns categorically "the use of military force by the central Soviet Government in the settlement of national problems concerning the Lithuanian people."

Mr. Dogan told the news conference that the DPS will take part in the forthcoming local and general elections. Besides, options are contemplated to form a coalition if the movement is not allowed to register as a political force, he said without specifying the political force with which the DPS would coalesce. Mr. Ahmed Dogan said that at present the DPS has a membership of 100,000.

"I have received several invitations from Simeon II the exiled Bulgarian monarch and will probably meet him as soon as possible," Mr. Dogan said when he was asked whether the DPS was in favor of a republic or a monarchy. According to the movement's leader, the question concerning the form of government should be decided by a referendum. If the crisis in the country keeps deepening, the tsar may prove a convincing figure both for the people and for the political parties. Bulgaria now has

an asset in Western Europe—Simeon II lives in Spain—and when the time is right it may prove useful for the country, Mr. Ahmed Dogan believes.

The DPS spokesman Mr. Yunal Lyutfi pointed out that the movement has received verbal assurances from Ministry of Education officials and, during preliminary talks, from representatives of the Presidency and of the government as well, that as early as this year Turkish will start to be taught at some schools in areas with compact ethnic Turkish population. There were plans to introduce four periods of Turkish a week as an optional subject in the first- to fourth-grade curriculum. The appropriate logistics is available.

Popov: 'Candid Discussion' With Soviet Envoy

AU1601193991 Sofia BTA in English 1911 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Sofia, January 16 (BTA)—Prime Minister Mr. Dimitur Popov today received Mr. Viktor Sharapov, the USSR ambassador to Bulgaria. In a candid discussion the head of government familiarized the ambassador with some views of the government on the conduct of the economic and political reforms in Bulgaria, the Council of Ministers Press Centre announced.

The prime minister told Mr. Sharapov that the Bulgarian Government intends to keep up the country's economic contacts with the USSR. Naturally, this will be carried out against the background of a polyvalent policy, in which the promotion of ties with one country will not be to the prejudice of ties with another country.

Mr. Popov inquired about the situation in Lithuania and in the Soviet Union, saying that the Bulgarian public needs wide-ranging and truthful information on the turn of events so as to take a clear stand and to adopt a line of conduct.

Mr. Sharapov, who just returned from Moscow, set forth the Soviet Government's position on the events in Lithuania. He emphasized that the Government of the Soviet Union will be strictly abiding by the law and will take all necessary measures to prevent incidents like those in Vilnius.

Concerning the grave economic crisis in Bulgaria now, the head of government stressed the importance of regular oil shipments from the Soviet Union.

The prime minister and the ambassador discussed the situation in the Persian Gulf and its impact on the two countries.

National Poll on Parties, Leaders Reported

AU1601113991 Sofia BTA in English 0956 GMT 16 Jan 91

["The Rating of Parties and Personalities at the End of 1990"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, January 16 (BTA)—In December 1990 the rating list is topped by President Zhelyu Zhelev again with 77 percent of approval, says the result of the last poll of the National Center for Public Opinion Research. After his election as president in August he has been winning the highest percentage of approval in all polls, but there is a drop of 5 per cent in December as compared to the approval he received in November 1990.

Mr. Ginyo Ganev, deputy chairman of the parliament, comes second on the list of approval for December with 71 percent. In 1990 he started as a political figure comparatively unfamiliar to the public, but after his election as deputy chairman of the Grand National Assembly his prestige started growing constantly.

Third and fourth come Vice President Atanas Semerdzhiev, 64 percent, and the leader of the Social Democratic Party Dr. Petur Dertliev, 61 percent.

The ex-premier Andrey Lukanov who was among the first three political figures all over 1990 is fifth in December with 60 percent of approval. However, he has quite a significant percentage of disapproval: 31 per cent. In November he lost 20 points of approval with the events which went along with his resignation, and recovered 10 of them in December.

The new Prime Minister Dimitur Popov received 55 percent of approval and only 4 percent of disapproval.

The last Bulgarian Monarch Simeon II who lives in Spain enjoys 42 percent of approval. In April 1990 he had the approval of 27 percent of the respondents. The disapproval for him has decreased threefold: 11 percent in December.

Among the political parties and organizations highest is the rating of the Ecoglasnost Movement, 67 percent of approval in December. Ecoglasnost is a member of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS).

The last poll shows a rise of the approval of the Bulgarian Agrarian Party (BZNS). The party, which won 16 seats in parliament in June, has received the approval of 57 percent of the respondents in December. It is disapproved of by 22 percent.

Third in approval comes the Union of Democratic Forces: 56 percent of approval and 29 percent of disapproval, followed by the Green Party, the Social Democratic Party and the Nikola Petkov Bulgarian Agrarian Party, all of them members of the SDS.

The Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP), which controls the majority in the present parliament, holds the eight position with 39 percent of approval and 49 percent of disapproval.

Allegation of Ganev Election Fraud Investigated

AU1601113591 Sofia BTA in English 0850 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Sofia, January 16 (BTA)—The Prosecutor's Office will take up the problem of the feature in "DUMA" which accused Mr. Stoyan Ganev, M.P. [member of parliament] of the opposition Union of Democratic Forces (SDS), of having entered parliament by forging election protocols.

Today "DEMOKRATSIYA" reports that the City Prosecutor's Office of Sofia has been assigned to investigate the case in connection with the article by Mr. Samuel Fransez which was published in the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party] daily "DUMA". Referring to a source in parliament who preferred to remain anonymous, Mr. Fransez wrote that Mr. Stoyan Ganev had been 400 votes short and was elected by forging 3 of the protocols. Mr. Ganev himself heard about it much later, said the feature in "DUMA".

The socialist daily carried this information the day after Mr. Stoyan Ganev was elected co-chairman of the Parliamentary Union of Democratic Forces.

Metropolitan Pankrati, chairman of the Mandate Commission, which has been working on the legality of the parliamentary elections in June last year for six months now, disproved the information carried in "DUMA" and said the commission has not finished its work yet and knows nothing about forged election protocols. The BSP candidate who lost against Mr. Ganev came out with a declaration that the election was legal.

Minister Kostov on Budget Difficulties

AU1601205191 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 9 Jan 91 p 1

[Finance Minister Ivan Kostov statement; place and date not given: "Lukanov's Heritage Proved Very Grave"]

[Text] My first task was to set a meeting of the collegium on methodological issues related to composing the 1991 budget and a timetable on completing the work on the budget. I had to clarify many crucial issues—whether prices will increase, what the interest rate will be, and will there be an agreement with the trade unions and the employers on a compensational increase of labor wages and pensions. In addition, it was necessary to clarify our position for the talks with the IMF. I invited IMF representatives to come and work with us on those issues. When the framework is worked out it is easier to cope with the budget and we could proceed toward preparing the final version of the bill and submitting it to the Grand National Assembly by the last 10 days of January.

The most unpleasant moment I had was on 30 December 1990, when I tried to repay debts accumulated by the previous government, which exceeded the budget deficit approved by the Grand National Assembly. The state credit fund, financed by the growth of savings in the State Saving Bank, proved to be empty because of the unrealistic forecast about the growth of those savings. There were payments related to social concessions and to covering the difference between the firm prices of the most important consumer goods, and the real prices of those goods, something that was done by the Ministry of finance. All this was a part of the former government's debt, and had to be repaid by 30 December 1990. I tried, but it turned out that the payment could not be made. At present it appears that the budget deficit, adopted by the parliament, will be crudely violated because of the halt in the price reform. Lukanov's government did not implement unpopular steps which could alleviate the budget. It made concessions related to prices, wages, and pensions, and implemented investments beyond the financial possibilities of our country.

The long lines in the major cities, the deficit, speculation, the race between prices and wages that accumulates speed, increasing social inequality, and the totally destroyed motivation to work are consequences of the profoundly disrupted budget.

The budget problems could be resolved only if a decisive change begins and if we stop to see the state budget as a New Year's cake, from which everyone wants to get a bigger slice than last year. As a matter of fact, the cake itself will be smaller than the one in 1990, which for its part, was smaller than the one of 1989. Thus, any talk about bigger slices is redundant.

National Assembly Legitimizes Private Medicine

AU1601220091 Sofia BTA in English 2116 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Sofia, January 16 (BTA)—Today parliament passed the amendments and addenda to the Public Health Act, with which it legitimized the private medical practice of the Bulgarian physicians and the opening of private and cooperative health establishments and of private pharmacies.

The law states that every Bulgarian national has the right to free medical aid at the state health establishments. He enjoyed this right so far but had no right to private medical aid after it was banned in the late 1960's. The medical aid rendered at private and cooperative medical establishments will be against payment.

Every qualified medical specialist will have the right to private medical practice. All physicians and dentists with a recognized medical specialty, as well as juridical persons, will have the right to open medical establishments. The Bulgarian Orthodox Church and the other religious communities in this country can also open their own hospitals. The law also provides for the opening of phyto- and other untraditional therapy surgeries under the observation of medical specialists.

The adoption of these amendments to the Public Health Act is assessed as the first step to the reform in health care.

Recently the minister of public health, Prof. Ivan Chernozemski, told journalists that it is necessary to adopt a new, comprehensive public health law but this cannot take place so soon because it is dangerous to start the reform in health care with the dismantling of the old structures without constructing new ones in advance.

For the time being the law does not provide for a health insurance system but its establishment will be a task of the near future, probably after three or four years, Mr. Konstantin Tsanev, chairman of the Parliamentary Health Care Commission, said.

Democracy, Glasnost Club Conference Reported

AU1601152491 Sofia BTA in English 1501 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Sofia, January 16 (BTA)—The Federation of Glasnost and Democracy Clubs said today that the culprits for the present state of the country are known and that, at the risk of losing prestige, the opposition forces should work to help Bulgaria out of the crisis.

"This is not the right-time for left-wing propaganda," reporters were told by the federation leadership at a news conference here today. Mr. Petko Simeonov, a well-known opposition figure and founding member of the federation (which was established in 1988 as a Debating Club in Support of Glasnost and Perestroyka), said that it is of paramount importance to persuade the public that the advent of market mechanisms in the economy is inevitable.

ILO-Sponsored Labor Relations Seminar Opens

AU1601194291 Sofia BTA in English 1657 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Sofia, January 16 (BTA)—A three-day seminar on labor relations issues opened here today. It is sponsored by the International Labor Office [ILO] which has undertaken to render Bulgaria technical assistance in the realization of the labor relations reform. The topics will also be discussed with experts of the International Labor Organization.

Such international contacts are of great use to us, Mrs. Emiliya Maslarova, minister of employment and social welfare, told the BTA.

Minister Maslarova also pointed out that we need consultations on the preparation of a new Labor Code as well. She stressed that the representatives of the foreign organizations have assessed the agreement reached by the government and the trade unions as an important step towards the achievement of social peace.

Specialists Confirm Computer Virus Reports

AU1701104991 Sofia BTA in English 0901 GMT 17 Jan 91

["Computer Viruses From Bulgaria"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, January 17 (BTA)—Bulgarian specialists are confirming the more and more frequent reports about Bulgarian computer viruses discovered in the United States and in Europe. THE NEW YORK TIMES has even written of an epidemic of Bulgarian computer viruses quoting Mr. Morton Suymer of the Virus Research Center with the Hamburg University according to whom of the 300 viruses known in the world some 120 are Bulgarian. He believes that the Bulgarians not only produce viruses but produce the best, i.e. the most dangerous ones.

Various sources have reported of a very dangerous Bulgarian virus called "Black Avenger" who has attacked European banks, insurance and accounting companies, medical centers and even computers of the U.S. military machine.

"VECHERNI NOVINI" recently published an interview with the young scientist of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences Veselin Bonchev quoted by the foreign media. He admits that it is difficult to determine the etymology of a virus, but the authors of the Bulgarian viruses take care to include the name of their creator and the place where they have been made. Often the viruses contain texts in Bulgarian which presuppose an excellent command of the language. Mr. Bonev asserts that it is not known for sure who the notorious "Black Avenger" is.

So far the authors of computer viruses worked in complete safety because in Bulgaria there is no law against them. The first virus was most probably designed as an intellectual challenge but the main reasons for this phenomenon are the low remuneration of programmers and the indefensibility of intellectual property.

Mr. Ilko Eskenazi MP [member of parliament] spoke on the Bulgarian Television of the necessity to amend the existing legislation protecting computer information and of providing guarantees against software larceny. He said that a draft text has been prepared which will soon be moved in parliament.

New Forms of Airline Management Discussed

AU1601155591 Sofia SVOBODEN NAROD in Bulgarian 10 Jan 91 p 2

[Interview with Kostadin Botev, director general of the Bulgarian Balkan Airline, by Tsvetina Bozhinova; place and date not given: "Fuel Supplies Are Exhausted, but No Emergency Landing Is Envisaged"—first paragraph is SVOBODEN NAROD introduction]

[Excerpts] This year's Santa Claus divided our monolithic Balkan Airline into 15 companies. On 1 January

1991—the only day of rest for all airlines in the world—we woke up with new airline routes and new prices, which increased by seven percent. Despite the usual turmoil preceding any such change Mr. Kostadin Botev, director general of the Balkan Airline, managed to spare a few minutes for an interview with SVOBODEN NAROD:

[Bozhinova] How do you see the future of the Balkan Airline?

[Botev] Considering that we have to live and deal with competitive airlines, we should better imitate their example. We divided the existing company into four airlines: two of which—Balkan and Khemus—are passenger airlines; the third one—Khelier—is a helicopter line; and the fourth—Buler Service—is an agricultural line. Buler is engaged in agrochemical work, but could specialize in passenger air services with small aircraft. The airports will become independent. The aircraft repair plant and the Air Transport Institute are also separate from the Balkan Airline. [passage omitted]

[Bozhinova] How do you intend to settle your mutual relations with the state?

[Botev] This is a question of dialogue. What is the essential problem? Do you think that aviation is subsidized? Only the price of the fuel is a form of subsidy. We have been importing our own fuel throughout the last three months, and the same applies to next year. We were authorized to purchase fuel at the expense of the currency balance. The price of fuel in leva will be seven times higher than the present one. The prices of fees have also greatly changed. In the past we had agreements with the East European countries (former socialist countries) on reduced fees, and sometimes we did not pay any fees at all. Now we are paying the same fees everywhere, which is the second great expenditure. The conditions for next year are particularly harsh. We have to overcome this difficult period.

[Bozhinova] What measures do you plan to adopt?

[Botev] First of all, the Balkan Airline will deal only with passenger services.

In the second place, we are obliged to cut down our staff and the number of our routes. We are now examining the effectiveness of each single international flight. By the beginning of 1992 we will "freeze" some routes. We are also engaged in analyzing the effectiveness of domestic flights and have already reduced them by 50 percent in 1990. The ticket prices of international and domestic flights should correspond to the expenditures. Ticket prices for domestic flights are a prerogative of the Council of Ministers. [passage omitted]

All these measures are related to leva convertibility. As long as this question is not settled we will work only on the basis of the dollar market price.

[Bozhinova] Does this not involve a tremendous price increase?

[Botev] Yes, but it should be understood that we are involved in enormous payment transactions with foreign airlines. The Ministry of Finance is expected to examine this question soon. We are not eager to introduce an excessive escalation of ticket prices, we are just trying to coordinate them with the market mechanism. You must agree that enormous expenditures require reciprocal incomes.

[Bozhinova] What are the plans for 1991?

[Botev] For the time being we have a contract for the purchase of a third "Boeing-737" aircraft, and we will presumably obtain two more aircraft for transcontinental flights. Four companies are competing for this delivery, but we are not disclosing our business secret, we intend to announce the final result. I think that the name of the company we have selected will be announced in January 1991.

'Friends of Greece' Society Founded in Smolyan

AU1701090791 Sofia BTA in English 0805 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Sofia, January 17 (BTA)—A "Friends of Greece" Society has been set up in the town of Smolyan in southern Bulgaria. Its members are 90 physical and juridical persons. Mr. Iliya Simeonov, director general of the Sluntse [Sun] State Company, was elected president of the society.

The society's aim is to contribute to the development of good neighborly relations with northern Greece and to develop business contacts in the spheres of tourism, production, sports and culture.

The Bulgarian town Smolyan and the Greek town Xanthus insist on the opening of the border near the Bulgarian town Rudozem.

Havel, Calfa Meet European Parliament President

AU1601131791 Prague CTK in English 2052 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 14 (CTK)— Czechoslovakia's association to the European Community, ecological problems and the international situation, especially in Lithuania and the Persian Gulf, were discussed between visiting president of the European Parliament Enrique Baron Crespo and Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel at the presidential chateau at Lany near here today.

While president Havel voiced his country's interest in closest possible cooperation with the European Community, Enrique Baron stated that the development of Europe has not been completed, and recalled that first contacts in the sphere of environmental protection began to develop already when European countries were divided by the Iron Curtain.

At a meeting later with Prime Minister Marian Calfa, Baron Crespo stated that Czechoslovakia can be a partner for the European Communities only as a federal state.

Interior Ministry Increases Security Measures

LD1701075291 Prague CTK in English 0713 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 17 (CTK)—Czechoslovak First Deputy Foreign Minister Jan Ruml called an extraordinary session of the ministrys special security staff at 2 a.m. today at which several measures were decided upon in connection with the outbreak of war in the Persian Gulf.

Discussed at the meeting were possible variants of development of the security situation in Czechoslovakia. Concrete measures were approved not only with regard to the Gulf conflict but also to the latest developments in the Soviet Union.

The staff decided, inter alia, to detail further soldiers from the ministrys force to reinforce the police, to increase protection of Czechoslovakias state borders and of structures of special importance (this in cooperation with the Army), to start application of stricter measures in relation to selected groups of foreigners, and to conduct uncompromising control of international lorry [truck] transport.

Crisis Team Set Up on Lithuania, Gulf

AU1601132091 Prague CTK in English 1250 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 14 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier has set up a crisis team to coordinate the activities of his ministry with other Czechoslovak representatives and government ministries with regard to the situation in Lithuania and the Persian Gulf.

The team will be formed by the minister, his deputies and other staff of the ministry.

It should report on the steps of foreign governments and institutions and their reactions as well as coordinate Czechoslovakia's activities with other states.

Charter 77 on 'Recognition' of Baltic States

LD1501015391 Prague CTK in English 1906 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 14 (CTK)—"We call on our federal government ... to discuss the possibility of an official recognition of the Baltic republics as sovereign states with which regular diplomatic relations will be established", the Charter 77 human rights group representatives told CTK today.

In a statement the charter condemned the Soviet Army's attack "aimed at marring the efforts of the Baltic nations for self-determination", saying that this step is reminiscent of former violent actions such as the support for the puppet workers-farmers government in Finland in 1939 or the intervention in Hungary in 1956 and of course the 1968 intervention in Czechoslovakia.

The Czechoslovak Human Rights Committee resolutely condemned the interference in Lithuania's internal affairs by the Soviet Army and expressed full solidarity with the legitimate representatives of the people of Lithuania.

The Czechoslovak National Congress also called today for an immediate halt to military operations in Lithuania in a protest note handed over to the Soviet Embassy in Czechoslovakia.

Demonstrations Against Intervention in Lithuania

AU1601131491 Prague CTK in English 2221 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 14 (CTK)— Over 1,000 people met in Prague's Wenceslas square today to protest against Soviet military action in Lithuania.

Speakers from the Czechoslovak-Lithuanian Society and the Czech-Latvian Club, who organized the meeting, called on the Czechoslovak bodies to clearly condemn the action and start talks with the legitimate bodies of the Baltic republics on the establishment of diplomatic ties.

USSR Envoy Discusses Lithuania, Warsaw Pact

LD1601183891 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1730 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] This afternoon, while the Federal Assembly was still discussing its stance on the events in Lithuania, we asked Boris Pankin, USSR ambassador to Czechoslovakia, for his view. First, he voiced regret and pain at the tragedy that has occurred and recalled President Gorbachev's resolve not to permit any such events in future. It was a display of uncontrolled passions, the Soviet

ambassador told us, and at issue now will be the quest for the paths aimed at not just explaining the causes of the events but at solving the accumulated disputes through dialogue.

Speaking about our parliamentary session he said:

[Begin Pankin recording in Russian with superimposed Czech translation] We expect a considerate action in the political sphere and from politicians. I do not want to comment on the Federal Assembly's deliberation; in fact, it would be interference on my part. As far as the Warsaw Pact is concerned, I cannot see any linkage between these two points. The fate of the Warsaw Pact was decided in June of last year at the session of the Political Consultative Committee in Moscow. All countries, including Czechoslovakia, agreed there that military groupings would be dismantled by the middle of this year at the latest, that popular opinion will be enhanced and will receive support, that the process of disarmament will be speeded up and the foundations of a joint European home will be laid. An agreement exists that in February or March at the latest, there will be an extraordinary meeting of Warsaw Pact member states, where all agreements which have already been reached in Moscow will be further specified. [end recording]

Federal Assembly Discusses Baltic Issue, Pact

LD1701180491 Prague CTK in English 1635 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 16 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak Federal Assembly (parliament) considers the government formed out of the will of the legitimate Lithuanian parliament to be the only legal government in Lithuania. In a resolution approved at the parliament's extraordinary session here today deputies stressed the inadmissibility of violent acts against the Lithuanian parliament. They decided to send two deputies as observers to the Lithuanian parliament.

The deputies also approved a resolution on Czechoslovakia's membership of the Warsaw Pact in the future. They called on the Czechoslovak Government to speed up negotiations on an immediate abolition of the Warsaw Pact military structure and dismantling of the Warsaw Treaty in connection with switching disarmament talks to the jurisdiction of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

The Czechoslovak parliament appealed to democratic parliaments throughout the world to voice solidarity with the Baltic republics and to intensify talks aimed at creating a security system for small countries as well.

Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier said in his final speech that the parliament's debate proved unity in condemning the aggression and brutality in Lithuania as well as in opinions on abolishing the Warsaw Pact structures.

Dienstbier Comments

LD1601181391 Prague CTK in English 1611 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 16 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier told an extraordinary session of Czechoslovak parliament here today that Lithuania as well as Latvia and Estonia still face a threat in spite of assertions from Moscow that it strives for a political solution to the situation in the Baltics.

The parliament's extraordinary session was convened to assess the situation in the Baltics and the repeated call by prominent Czechoslovak political forces for Czechoslovakia's withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact over the bloody massacre in the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius, last weekend.

Dienstbier said that the Czechoslovak Government's stand on Lithuania of January 13 which condemend the use of force in suppressing the right of nations to self-determination was appreciated by democratic-minded forces in the Soviet Union. The government also enjoined the foreign minister to consult with Poland and Hungary on the possibility of coordinated action, including the question of quick departure from the Warsaw Pact.

The Czechoslovak foreign minister then informed deputies about possible ways of Czechoslovakia's withdrawal from the Pact. It is either possible to conclude a protocol on termination of the validity of the Pact which has been sought by the Czechoslovak Government for one year, or to withdraw from the Pact following expression of consent by the other member states as was the case of the former GDR, or not to participate in the activity of the Warsaw Pact, Die istbier said.

The minister recalled that already last July's summit of the Warsaw Pact in Moscow adopted the Czechoslovak proposal to gradually transform and eventually dismantle the Pact. A commission of government commissioners was set up to this end, charged with working out a timetable for dismantling the military wing of the pact by July 1, 1991 at the latest, while only a disarmament commission would be created within the Warsaw Treaty, Dienstbier said.

Jiri Dienstbier said that disarmament talks are now being conducted at the level of the NATO and Warsaw Pact, and therefore it is in the interest of all the parties concerned that there exist a coordinating body within the Warsaw Pact which would conduct the talks. This was also agreed upon at the November 1990 Paris summit of the Helsinki signatories.

The minister said that since last November, the talks on the transformation of the Warsaw Pact have been stagnating because the Soviet Union has been repeatedly asking for postponement for internal political reasons.

Dienstbier said that agreement had been reached with Poland and Hungary to take a stand on this problem at

the Visegrad, Hungary, meeting next Monday at the latest and to set a date until which the three countries are ready to wait for a reply to the proposal to convene the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee. If this is not possible, a decision will be taken on what measures could be taken.

In this connection Dienstbier stressed that Western representatives are pointing to the importance of tripartite cooperation (Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia) as a guarantee against Balkanization of Central Europe. However, the goal of the three countries is not to establish a pact similar to the "cordon sanitaire", the minister said.

Calfa Interviewed

LD1601202591 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1807 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Marian Calfa by Michal Tvarozek; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] As we have already informed you, Federal Assembly members met at their 12th joint session today. Among other things, they adopted a resolution on Czechoslovakia remaining in the Warsaw Pact. It says that the Federal Assembly appeals to the CSFR Government to speed up the talks on the immediate abolition of the Warsaw Pact's military structure and, in harmony with transferring disarmament talks under the jurisdiction of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, on dissolving the Warsaw Pact.

[Tvarozek] The resolution already exists. It obliges the government to speed up steps toward the departure of the CSFR from the Warsaw Pact. What will further steps be?

[Calfa] Actually, from the very beginning this new government set the goal to get out of this military bloc. This resolution actually only appeals to the government to intensify its activity in this direction. It is not an appeal to start it. The first step will be a consultation with representatives of our neighbors—Poland and Hungary. It looks as though it will take place at the very beginning of next week in Hungary where we will assess various options. Our departure from the Warsaw Pact is closely linked to the entire disarmament process in Europe in which the Warsaw Pact acts as a bloc.

The next step will obviously be the federal government's assessment of this situation regarding the internal political viewpoint. Then undoubtedly we will start activities directly at the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee which should have convened but the meeting has been postponed since November. We will increase efforts toward a meeting and this question could be given a definite form and put forward at that session. The philosophy should be to dissolve the Warsaw Pact in its current form. It should be a process under the control of all the participants. Therefore it seems to me that the procedure on leaving the Warsaw Pact should be understood as the Warsaw Pact has no future and thus it should cease to exist in its current form.

Naturally there is one problem. The entire air defense of the state is actually an integrated part of the air defense of the USSR and all of Central Europe. The limitations, therefore, will obviously be of a long duration and complicated but, they must be done.

[Tvarozek] Does the current law permit us to leave the Warsaw Pact, or will it have to be changed?

[Calfa] Czechoslovak internal law has nothing in it to prevent our departure. Naturally the old and also the amended text of the Warsaw Treaty—of the document itself—does not envisage the possibility of individual withdrawal. It contains time limits and there are articles about it. [as heard] Therefore we want to assess this issue comprehensively along with all the Warsaw Pact states and at some wider forum to prevent it from becoming a bilateral affair.

I see some problems here. If, however, as a member of the Warsaw Pact with full rights, we want to liquidate the Warsaw Pact in its current form from within, then the question will be raised whether there is a need for a treaty of this type at all and we might come to the conclusion that there is not. Therefore the legal situation is again different when more of us are involved. This is the reason why we are coordinating our steps with our neighbors.

[Tvarozek] In conclusion, Mr. Prime Minister, the present political situation gives rise to one quite logical question: Was the acceleration of this withdrawal process [from the Warsaw Pact] prompted by the fact that the situation in Lithuania and the Baltic republics became more acute? Are we leaving the bloc fast because it is very dangerous for us and basically this aggression may know no borders? Also, are we not isolating ourselves from a bloc which could attack us?

[Calfa] I would like to separate the two issues. I personally do not have any reports which would indicate that the escalation of the military situation in Lithuania there bears any relation to Czechoslovakia. There are reminiscences, naturally, but there is no information which would substantiate this conclusion in 1991. This has to be said clearly also. On the other hand, from a moral point of view, we are in a bloc which solves its internal problems simply by attempting to attack a nation using military force, or by using military force to solve a nation's efforts for sovereignty, namely, for the basic rights of a nation. Really, from a moral point of view, such a military set-up, such a group is undemocratic. It uses undemocratic methods and, taking into account the search for a new quality in the Czechoslovak approach, this really does not correspond to the new belief on the method of resolving disputes.

Chemical Unit Placed on Alert in Saudi Arabia

LD1701092491 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 0800 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] In connection with the start of the Desert Storm operation by multinational forces in the Persian Gulf area, the Ministry of Defense announced that the Czechoslovak anti-chemical warfare unit was put on combat alert in the early hours of today. It is quiet in its area and there are no military operations taking place there. Members of our unit have taken positions in shelters and are ready to carry out their tasks in case of a chemical attack. Their morale is good.

Fire Reported at Bohunice Nuclear Power Plant

AU1601142991 Vienna ORF Teletext in German 1406 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Bratislava/Vienna—A fire broke out in the second block of the disputed Bohunice nuclear power plant yesterday afternoon, it has now become known. The flames were extinguished within a very short period.

According to an official statement, no radioactive substances leaked outside. The block was shut down immediately. There has been no official explanation as to the cause of the fire.

The first reaction in Austria came from Vienna Mayor Helmut Zilk. "If there had been any need for further evidence, now it must be clear to the last skeptics: Bohunice must be closed down," he demanded.

Calfa on Vranitzky's Response

AU1601132491 Prague CTK in English 2129 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 14 (CTK)— Czechoslovak Prime Minister Marian Calfa appreciated the Austrian Government's interest in the safe operation of Czechoslovak nuclear power plants and stressed that the Czechoslovak Government shared this concern as well.

The Czechoslovak Government thinks that this issue should be solved as soon as possible, Calfa said here today on meeting Austrian Ambassador to Czechoslovakia Karl Peterlik who handed him an official statement of the Austrian Government on the existence and operation of the nuclear power plant at Jaslovske Bohunice, West Slovakia, in the future.

Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky informed Calfa in the letter of the January 8 decision of the Austrian Government to offer power and political cooperation to Czechoslovakia providing it agrees with shutting two units in the power plant at Jaslovske Bohunice. The Austrian Government has entrusted some of the ministers with drafting a concept of this cooperation, Vranitzky wrote.

Calfa has invited Franz Vranitzky to visit Czechoslovakia at the end of this month or the beginning of February.

Economy Minister Cited on USSR Oil Deliveries

LD1501145291 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1730 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] During a break in today's extraordinary session of the federal government, Economy Minister Vladimir Dlouhy said that deliveries of oil from the Soviet Union are continuing so far. On Friday we received roughly 40,000 tonnes, on Saturday roughly 30,000 tonnes—which is a good average—and today it looks as though we will also receive 30,000 tonnes.

According to information from Vladimir Dlouhy, the Soviet Union has recently been reducing the shortfall which it had in oil deliveries at the beginning of this year. I personally think, Dlouhy said, that next week the deliveries will, on average, be at the level we had expected.

Former Adamec Adviser on Velvet Revolution

AU1601131591 Prague CTK in English 0906 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 14 (CTK)— Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev supposedly refused to support publicly the "path of reform" of the then Czechoslovak Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec in early December 1989, when the "velvet revolution" was gathering its strength.

In a series of articles about the causes and circumstances of the fall of the communist regime in Czechoslovakia published in the weekly "TVORBA", Adamec's former adviser Oskar Krejci claims that in 1989 "isolationism was the most significant element in Soviet foreign policy in its relations with Eastern Europe, as the Soviet Union was concentrating on its own deepening domestic problems".

If on his visit to Prague in 1987 Gorbachev had spoken out on behalf of the people "excommunicated" from the Communist Party and political life during the so-called "normalization" period after 1968, today's situation in Central and Eastern Europe would look different, in Krejci's estimation.

"By not putting pressure on the Jakes leadership, Moscow not only did not delay the fall of the former regime this pseudo neutrality hastened the arrival of the November 17 revolution and increased the depth of the changes and their quickness in advance", says the article in "TVORBA".

Adamec's former adviser says that he was trying to gain political support against the conservative leadership of the Czechoslovak Communist Party long before the revolution. But the only thing Adamec could manage was to neutralize the activities of the Soviet Embassy in Czechoslovakia, which at that time represented the opponents of "perestroyka". This accelerated the feeling

of helplessness among the "dogmatists" in the party leadership, as at the same time they lost their links to Moscow, leaving free the path to revolution and beyond in Czechoslovakia.

Klaus Comments on Economic Reform in 1991

AU1701080791 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 9 Jan 90 p 7

[Interview with Vaclav Klaus, federal minister of finance and Civic Forum chairman, by Branislav Janik; place and date not given: "Politics on the Razor's Edge; Will 1991 Be the Alpha and Omega of Our Existence?" —first paragraph is NARODNA OBRODA introduction]

[Text] According to the most recent survey by AISA [Agency for Independent Social Analysis], Vaclav Klaus, federal minister of finance and Civic Forum chairman, is among the most disliked politicians in Slovakia—he is trusted by fewer than 35 percent of the respondents in the latest AISA poll. It has not at all intimidated him, and he granted an interview to NARODNA OBRODA.

[Janik] One of the decisive elements of the economic reform after 1 January is the general price liberalization. Critics have pointed out the danger of explosive inflation. You are promising to keep the inflationary process within acceptable limits by introducing a series of restrictive measures. Where is the truth, and what are the acceptable limits of inflation for an ordinary citizen?

[Klaus] I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the major issue is not what we can guarantee. Inflation is an objective phenomenon caused by a configuration of diverse influences and factors both internal and external. Unfortunately, only a part of them are in the hands of the people who deal with the economic reform. Even restrictive politics has its limits. True, we could hit the brakes so that the possibility of inflation would be eliminated, but the price to pay would be tremendously high—reduced employment and production. Our politics will be on the razor's edge, from which it is easy to fall, and therefore we are concerned with balancing the two evils: inflation and the decline in production and employment. Although there are no ifs in the economy, I will say: If we implemented the reform alone, without external influences, i.e. without the disintegration of CEMA, or the Persian Gulf crisis, and the problems in contacts with the USSR, as regards the inflation, employment, and production level, we would keep the rates at a reasonable level.

[Janik] When will the walk on the razor's edge become somewhat safe?

[Klaus] It will be very dangerous, particularly in the first half of this year. There is very little space to maneuver. Moreover, we reduce this space by acts like the jurisdiction disputes. Looking at it as an economist, I see that a coordinated struggle against inflation required the preconditions of creating adequate budget regulations, a sufficient federal budget, and also the existence of a single consistent policy on currency, taxation, customs, and prices. If we want to fight inflation effectively, we must be exceptionally careful in obeying the budgetary discipline—that is a matter for the federal and the republics' ministries of finance.

[Janik] You also spoke about the lack of space to maneuver in connection with the discussion of the budget for next year. This concerned mostly the federation budget.

[Klaus] On the field of anti-inflationary struggle, it would mean a defeat if one budget showed a substantial deficit, another were balanced, and the third showed a slight deficit. The federal budget simply must have sufficient funds to be able to influence the economic development and therefore it cannot be only an appendage to the republic budgets. After all, the center of the struggle against inflation will be in the federal budget.

[Janik] Hence, the continuing jurisdiction disputes interfere also with your work?

[Klaus] I already mentioned that the jurisdiction disputes complicate many things. I will give one example from the negotiations with the IMF. It concerned export licenses. In liberalized foreign trade, of course, some things exist that must be controlled—antiques and art works, for instance—export licenses for shirts or watches, however, are redundant. The republic governments complained that the "evil" Federal Ministry of Foreign Trade does not let them go abroad, that they would be much more liberal. When we, with the IMF mission, eventually compared the lists submitted by the national governments and by the Federal Ministry of Foreign Trade, the latter was the most liberal. The lists by the republic governments were much longer. They included all kinds of things: toothbrushes, ten kinds of beef innards, etc. The IMF mission was horrified. It asked for my view within 24 hours, and I would have had to call the Economic Councils of the republics and of the federation. Eventually, we solved it by my assurances to the IMF that it really is only a short-term issue.

[Janik] Do the IMF or World Bank experts leave Czechoslovakia disappointed?

[Klaus] Precisely the jurisdiction issue disappoints them very much. I will give you another example. We had a list of regulated prices, which included gondola lifts, for instance, but only in Slovakia because the Czech Republic did not want it. The IMF experts laughed that somebody would want to regulate the price of lifts and specifically only in Slovakia. We look quite dumb; I cannot help it. It is very difficult to combine the idea of a single united market in the framework of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic with the idea that the same product would be subject to regulation in some places and in others the price would be liberalized. Could one imagine that eventually there would be differences even in taxation on income?

[Janik] The public, the part critical of you as well as the part supportive of you, is convinced that you know what you want to achieve. Many people connect future prosperity with you. However, is it not a wait like that in Beckett's *Godot*?

[Klaus] I have a different opinion. We cannot wait for prosperity. If we sit on a spot and wait, no prosperity will come. We must go to it, we have to do a lot to achieve it. People incorrectly connect the tightening of belts with my name, but I would prefer if they connected me to rolling up the sleeves and joining in active work. A tightening of belts is a rather passive principle, and even Beckett's theater of the absurd probably did not want just passively to wait for Godot. I think that we are putting on sports clothes and are beginning to run.

[Janik] When will you know that your endeavors and those of your team are successful? When will you yourself feel that you achieved what you wanted? Will it be by this year?

[Klaus] We need to survive the most difficult year, 1991. It is a year in which everything will be turned and changed, a year of price, currency, and foreign-trade liberalizations. It will be very difficult and cannot at all be a year of peace and relaxation. If we ourselves do not complicate it by doing something only half-heartedly, for instance, if the social unrest does not surpass the limit of acceptability, it will be the key year. We will receive signals on how economic subjects react to the changes relatively soon. It is obvious that in some instances we will lose, the extensive transformation in privatizations might create chaos in our economic life for a while, but the crucial thing is that everything necessary be done quickly. Every deceleration and postponement is to our general detriment.

[Janik] What is your opinion about the estimate that approximately 60 percent of enterprises will collapse economically in the near future?

[Klaus] We must distinguish between what is a collapse of an enterprise and what is a cessation of certain activities, discontinuation of production, closing workshops, and abandoning production programs. In my opinion, there will be many fewer collapsing enterprises than we are expecting. Of course, imports to the USSR and to the countries of the disintegrating CEMA organization will decrease. For many enterprises this will represent a sales crisis. We cannot solve a sales crisis. No help will be provided to enterprises which ask for financial assistance. Subsidies lead nowhere, as I have already said. The federal government has only a small space to maneuver. I feel sorry if I am with people—for example in Kosice textile factory not so long ago—and I can feel passivity and see that people are waiting for someone to solve their problem for them once again.

[Janik] Do people realize what is in store for them? Do they understand that for many of them, this year is the alpha and omega of their existence?

[Klaus] I think they do not believe what I am constantly saying, and this is a big mistake. We have not mastered the art of listening and we are playing deaf and blind in the face of apparent, albeit unpleasant, truth. When I was employed in the Forecasting Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, we pointed to the possible loss of the Soviet market—even then, we were aware of the instability of the Soviet market. Despite this, many enterprises are hoping even today that we will retain the Soviet market. Despite all internal and external problems, our goal is a normal market environment and adoption of a standard economic model of market economy.

[Janik] You are speaking about a market economy. What is you opinion about the term "social market economy?" What is your opinion about the third way, associated with the name of Ota Sik or Alexander Dubcek? Is there a third way?

[Klaus] I think this is nonsense. I have never spoken about a third way. No third way in economy, no attempts at a symbiosis of various state regulating mechanisms of the market, and no civic initiatives can lead to a modern European state. The idea that we can have the best of both worlds is only a dream. I understand that Mr. Dubcek is pushing for what is in harmony with his lifelong philosophy, but my opinion is completely different. Trade unions' interference in management is incompatible with the idea of economic reform. The Czechoslovak economy will be under strong pressure this year, and employers will have to have free hands to be able to push this colossus forward. Putting adjectives in front of the term "market economy" is useless. A market economy is a real market economy and obeys market laws and nothing else.

[Janik] Do you agree with Mr. Bata's words that democracy stops at the factory gates?

[Klaus] This is quite clear and understandable. In the revolutionary times we all participated in everything—we did not vote about the 17 November revolution in parliament, we decided it in the streets. Today, we have normal times and things should not be decided in front of factory gates and in the streets. Trade unionists have, of course, their place in society. I would never come up with the idea to outlaw trade unions, yet the trade union's standpoint is a mere standpoint and cannot replace decisionmaking.

[Janik] Recently, a possible monetary reform has been spoken about and feared. As far as I know, you are its opponent. Can a situation arise in which you would agree to a monetary reform?

[Klaus] In Czechoslovakia, now or in the past, money supply has never grown at such a pace as to create nonsensical and illogical amounts of money that would have to be eliminated by an administrative decision. In today's situation, if we ourselves do not make it worse, there is—and there will be—no reason for a monetary reform. We know how to avoid erroneous monetary

policy, we know how to avoid pumping excessive money into the economy. This means that there will be no real reason for a monetary reform to be implemented now or in the future.

[Janik] A lot of people are criticizing you. What criticisms do you take seriously, what type of criticism should you take to your heart?

[Klaus] Truly speaking, a vast majority of comments and criticism—which is expertly formulated against us—are considerations and doubts about the subjects that we had discussed for hours and hours before we adopted a solution. It is a criticism of the alternatives we had discussed for a long time and finally rejected. For example, we discussed whether to implement liberalization of prices slowly or quickly. We have thought about the matter for days and nights. If someone pushes for a slower implementation, he does not say anything new to me. He only speaks about something which we already have discussed.

Of course, I fear various destabilizing phenomena, dangerous inflationary spirals, such as a spiral caused by relations between wages and prices, between exchange rate and wages, and so on. These are real dangers. If someone threatens me with these dangers, he only confirms that I am permanently preoccupied with them and think about how am I going to cut them down if they come. I do not think that we have made or are making mistakes, not to speak about the fact that we constantly have various missions from the IMF here, and they agree with us in principle. There is only one real economy. Laws of physics are the same everywhere and so are economic laws. In my intensive comparative studies of economic systems, I have not found any distinction between various types of market economy. There is only one model. There is only one serious economic science for which Nobel Prizes are awarded. We are drawing from this science today.

Bank Official Outlines Plans for IMF Loan Use

AU1601211091 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 9 Jan 91 pp 1,2

[Interview with Jaromir Zahradnik, deputy chairman of the Czechoslovak State Bank, by Elena Klimesova; place and date not given: "We Had Originally Expected Less"]

[Text] [Klimesova] Apparently, we had counted on a sum of $2 billion. Was the amount of credit provided influenced by a change in the exchange rate or by other factors?

[Zahradnik] We had originally expected a substantially smaller loan from the IMF. We compared ourselves to other states in a similar situation to Czechoslovakia. The loan provided is large; we regard this as an expression of great support for our economic reform and of the IMF's profound faith in its success.

[Klimesova] What conditions have been set for repaying this loan?

[Zahradnik] The loan is being provided over a period of five years; repayment has been postponed for three years. That is, we will repay it in 1994 and 1995 in quarterly installments.

[Klimesova] When can the CSFR expect to have this money actually at its disposal?

[Zahradnik] The CSFR will draw money from the loan provided for the first time on Thursday 10 January. The further release of funds is strictly bound by our progress in fulfilling the aims of our economic policy. The IMF will constantly assess the fulfillment of these aims.

[Klimesova] What specifically will the loan be used for?

[Zahradnik] The loan has been provided for a purpose. Czechoslovakia has been granted a loan, on the one hand, to regulate its balance of payments current account and to strengthen its foreign currency reserves. This loan amounts to 105 percent of the Czechoslovak quota. On the other hand, the loan granted to us amounts to 82 percent of the member's quota for financing the consequences of oil price increases in our economy. These funds, therefore, will be placed at the disposal of our enterprises and entrepreneurs in the system for internal convertibility—they will make specific use of them.

[Klimesova] The IMF credit should, among other things, assist the introduction of the internal convertibility of the koruna. In this connection, are any further changes envisaged in the koruna's exchange rate against the U.S. dollar?

[Zahradnik] The loan provided represents an important stabilizing factor throughout our economic reform. The very possibility of supplementing our foreign currency reserves from such a huge source provides a guarantee that the koruna's exchange rate against freely convertible currencies will be stable. That is, we are giving no consideration at all to further devaluing the koruna against the so-called basket of five most important freely convertible currencies. Within the framework of this stability, the exchange rate will react—with only minor corrections—to changes affecting the mutual relationships among the freely convertible currencies.

[Klimesova] What other loans may the CSFR count on during this period?

[Zahradnik] An IMF loan is an expression of trust and is, therefore, an important signal for the world market. We are counting on support from the European Community and from other states belonging to the OECD. In accordance with our needs, the Czechoslovak State Bank intends—on behalf of our country—to enter the international money market and it is possible to expect that, under the given circumstances, our entrance will be successful. These credits will be exclusively assigned to increasing our foreign currency reserves.

Shops 'Empty' Despite Price Liberalization

AU1601144691

[Editorial Report] Prague SVOBODNE SLOVO in Czech on 8 January on page 1 carries a 700-word interview with Engineer J. Svantner, commercial director of the wholesale enterprise in Prague-Ruzyne, by "ska" entitled "The Customer Loses Out." In the interview, the place and date of which are not given, Svantner, whose organization supplies 60 percent of Prague food shops, is asked about the reasons for the current shortage of staple foods.

As the interviewer points out, despite the liberalization of prices on 1 January, "there is no pasta in the shops, no potatoes, no rice, no salt, no oil, and no instant dumplings."

According to Svantner, there are two reasons for the current shortages. The first reason is the fear of shop managers of the coming privatization. In an endeavor to reduce the estimated value of their shops to a minimum, they have been trying to keep the level of inventories low and have reduced their orders. The already low stocks have been further depleted by Christmas shopping and by foreigners who have been buying out "rice, salt, sugar, pasta, and oil."

The second reason is that wholesalers have had to "adjust" to the new price law and the new pricing methodology connected with price liberalization. As he points out "we were able to accept new orders from the shops only after this adjustment. Consequently, we were able to really start distributing goods only yesterday afternoon." The same is true also of other wholesalers in Czechoslovakia, he says.

Asked how long it will take before the food shops are adequately supplied? Svantner says that "it is hard to predict the level of market undersaturation. It is a fact, however, that with respect to many types of goods, we are forced to cut shops' orders."

First Husak Interview Since Resignation Reported

AU1601132791 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 15 Jan 91 p 2

["(L)"-signed report: "Gustav Husak Has Spoken"]

[Text] Former CSSR President Gustav Husak last appeared in public in December 1989 when he delivered his abdication address on Czechoslovak Television. Since that time, he has neither appeared in public nor been cited in print; however, he has been the subject of various "appraisals" in the Czech and Slovak press. Excerpts—published in the Czech press last December—from the memoirs of Rudolf Barak, former Czech Socialist Republic interior minister, were the straw that broke the camel's back. The interview with Gustav Husak is published in NOVE SLOVO No. 3.

Journalist Writing on StB Physically Assaulted

AU1601124591 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 8 Jan 91, p 2

[Martin Cap report: "Was It an Octopus?"]

[Excerpts] According to a CTK report, an unnamed Prague journalist was assaulted by three unidentified assailants in Brno late at night on 2 January. The assaulted journalist suffered only minor injuries. According to the report, the assailants stole materials pertaining to the activities of the former State Security, the Ministry of the Interior, and prison guards. We have discovered that the victim was Ladislav Henek, deputy chief editor of REPORTER. According to Henek, he was contacted before the holiday season by an unidentified man from Brno. The man offered him important documents. However, he insisted that he must hand over the documents personally. The meeting was to take place in Brno the next afternoon or evening.

"I arrived at KURYR's office in Brno around 2100. I brought materials that I needed to start writing an article entitled 'New State Security in Action,' which we had mentioned in the second issue of REPORTER. The problem was, however, that the locks on KURYR's office had been changed and I could not get in. I waited in front of the office until 2300 to see whether the unidentified man would appear," says Mr. Henek. He adds that, instead of meeting the man, he was assaulted in the courtyard in front of the building. [passage omitted]

"As they were beating me one of the assailants kept saying that I should know what to write and he told me to remember it well. To facilitate the investigation of my beating I can say that I know whom to ask questions and, above all, what to ask. The stolen material pertains to people who have important positions in Prague and Brno. I do not think of myself as a hero, but if they wanted to scare me they did not succeed. I will continue my work."

Klaus Confirmed as Civic Forum Chairman

LD1501133491 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1900 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] The Republican Congress of the Civic Forum [OF] is about to end in Prague. Our correspondent Alexander Pica reports on its deliberations:

[Pica] The dramatic situation at the Civic Forum Congress in Prague during the election of the members of the OF Council has already calmed down and the delegates are discussing the structure of the party.

The most discussed issue was the question of the representation of individual political clubs of the Civic Forum. The result was a compromise decision that the Interparliamentary Club of the Democratic Right and the Liberal Club would each have three representatives

in the council. The other 10 members of the OF Council are representatives of regions.

As was expected, Vaclav Klaus was confirmed as chairman.

The vote in the case of the first candidate from West Bohemia was interesting; he was not elected because until November he was a member of the Czechoslovak Communist Party. Among better-known personalities of the Civic Forum, Petr Kucera, who was proposed by the Liberal Club, was not elected.

The number of delegates is falling a bit because the most important issues have already been decided. The Civic Forum is a political party and under the strong leadership of cHairman Vaclav Klaus it agreed on a new structure and composition of its council.

Nature of Civic Forum as Party Viewed

AU1601144991 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 15 Jan 91 p 3

[Jan Fuele commentary: "Has a New 'State Party' Been Established?"]

[Text] As fate would have it, not only those who represented this—at the time—movement, but also journalists, met together prior to the Civic Forum republican assembly. They placed bets on the probable number of parties that would be established after the disintegration of the Civic Forum. We were not alone. Even before the assembly started, this was the most frequently discussed topic among the majority of delegates. However, everything turned out differently in the space of a few hours.

The Civic Forum's nascent political program, which represents the newly established party on the outside, was evidently crafted in a workshop belonging to supporters of the Interparliamentary Club of the Democratic Right. This is borne out by the formulations concerning the definitive departure from socialism with a human face and, thus, from reform Communists; the rejection of all forms of Marxist and Leninist ideology; the fetishism of the market; the reference to NATO as the only stabilizing element in Europe (we have forgotten that one extreme kind of protection did not bring us any advantages); and the surprising shunning of Slovakia and the future situation in the Public Against Violence movement—Civic Forum coalition. Despite these formulations, this patchy and one-sided program passed through the voting process and was even supported by liberal deputies. Some right-wing oriented delegates stated in reference to them that they had changed their colors in the midst of the contest. However, there was no contest.

This could indicate not only the immediate disintegration of the Civic Forum (which has merely been put off until a later date) prior to the period leading up to the next parliamentary elections, but also a real parliamentary and government crisis. The cold calculation reckoning with successive months of social instability and the opposition's activation—which, so far, mostly only extends to social and national demagog[illegible] decided that the Civic Forum will continue to be a large state party governing by means of its omnipresent majority.

However, its unity and size will be limited by several factors. Members of parliamentary clubs have gained an even greater scope for behind the scenes maneuvering in the parliaments and in the subsequent search for potential allies outside the center. Those who are convinced that they already have the necessary majority on their side will probably decide to sever the knot binding the two main streams together. They will do this even at the cost of a parliamentary crisis and new elections. It will be very difficult to speculate on when this will happen since Civic Forum assemblies will be held every three months.

By declaring itself to be a party, the Civic Forum has taken on one great risk. We will now see how many people are willing to support its very tentatively formulated nascent political program. We merely ascertained the number of voters from the results of the parliamentary elections, not the number of potential members. Among other things, delegates at the republican assembly decided to establish a party for people of a "particular caliber." Each member will be subjected to screenings and, after a certain period, former members of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia will not be able to hold more senior positions in the movement—only ministerial and parliamentary posts will remain open to them. It is true that attention has already turned to the former members of other political parties. Delegates did not elect one of their most well-known figures—Petr Kucera—to the Civic Forum Council. Prior to the establishment of the Civic Forum, he was a member of the Czechoslovak Socialist Party.

HSD-SMS Leaves Government Coalition

AU1601132191 Prague CTK in English 2132 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 14 (CTK)— The Self-Government Democracy Movement-Society for Moravia and Silesia (HSD-SMS) said today it was leaving the Czech government coalition with the Civic Forum, the strongest force in the Czech Republic.

In a statement made available to CTK, HSD-SMS stated that in a number of cases Civic Forum representatives opposed the main goals of the movement, especially concerted action in settling genuine self-government of Moravia and Silesia, they rejected draft solutions regarding the Czech Government's budget discriminating against Moravian and Silesian districts, and its request to replace Czech Minister of State Control Bohumil Tichy by a more competent person remained unheeded on part of the Czech Parliament's Chairwoman Dagmar Buresova.

Communist Party's Kanis on Relations With OF

AU1601132291 Prague CTK in English 1722 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 14 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Communist Party Chairman Pavol Kanis voiced the hope of correct relations between the Communist Party and the Civic Forum [OF] in a letter sent today to Civic Forum Chairman Vaclav Klaus.

Kanis congratulated Klaus on his election as Civic Forum chairman, saying that his concept of the change of Civic Forum into a rightist political party was pushed through as well.

He hoped that correct relations between the Communist Party and the Civic Forum would be based in the future on bilateral interest in developing a democratic pluralist system in Czechoslovakia. "You can be sure about our correctness", Kanis said.

Slovaks Defy Federal Decision on Arms Production

AU1601154391

[Editorial Report] Slovak newspapers on 9 and 10 January publish a number of items related to the decision of the Slovak Republic Government of 8 January to slow down the pace of converting arms production to civilian production in Slovakia, all of them endorsing this decision.

Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak on 9 January on pages 1 and 2 carries an 800-word Jozef Krsko report on the above Slovak government session entitled "Arms Production Continues." Krsko observes that, by its decision of 8 January, "the Slovak government defied the premature, poorly though out, and incompetent decision of the federal government to halt the production of arms in Slovakia." He points out that the impact of conversion on Slovakia, which accounts for more than 60 percent of Czechoslovak arms production, has been "five times as severe" as its impact on the Czech Republic. Krsko "welcomes" the Slovak government decision because an abrupt discontinuation of arms production would have "disrupted" the Slovak economy and have had "tremendous social repercussions."

On the same day, on page 7, Bratislava PRAVDA carries a 1,200-word Jozef Krsko article entitled "Slovak Conversion: Intention Or Error?" Krsko wonders whether the federal government's decision to halt arms production in Slovakia and to break up the Martin Heavy Engineering Works (which associated most Slovak arms manufacturers) was "just a decision of dilletantes or whether something else is behind it, something that only the future will bring to light." The moral arguments put forward for this decision, he says, "do not hold water." Krsko points out that even during the presidency of "humanist Masaryk," Czechoslovakia was a major arms producer and exporter and "no one objected to it." Besides, while the federal government prevented the Martin Heavy Engineering Works from concluding contracts for tank exports for 1991, it is itself trying to sell some of the 1,600 tanks and 2,300 armored combat vehicles which Czechoslovakia must take out of active service under the conventional arms reduction treaty, as Jiri Brabec, first deputy minister of foreign trade, revealed after the 3 January session of the federal government.

Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak on 9 January on page 1 carries 400-word "excerpts from the communique" on the 8 January session of the Slovak Republic Government. It includes the following passage on the above decision: "The winding down of military production in Slovakia according to the original concept would have reduced the number of jobs by more than 9,000 and the introduction of alternative production programs would have jeopardized an additional approximately 60,000 jobs. The government therefore gave its consent to entrepreneurial activities of producers that would slow down the pace of conversion in Slovak enterprises."

On the same day, on page 6, NARODNA OBRODA carries a 1,000-word Jan Fuele article entitled "Close Season for Weapons; How Much Conversion Costs Us," which justifies the Slovak government decision.

Fuele first discusses the profitability of arms production. He says that between 1976 and 1988 Czechoslovakia produced 144.5 billion korunas and exported 83.3 billion korunas worth of "military technology." Arms manufacturers surrendered 51 billion korunas worth of their profits to the federal budget in this period. Because of the high levies (more than 80 percent of profits), arms manufacturers were unable to generate financial reserves for alternative production programs. Moreover, between 60 and 90 percent of investments in these factories in the 1980-90 period were investments in "special purpose technology" which does not lend itself to other purposes.

The problems of Slovak arms manufacturers are said to be compounded by the drastic pace of conversion: "In 1988 Slovak arms manufacturers produced 19.3 billion korunas worth of weapons, a year later only 12 billion korunas worth of weapons, and last year the figure dropped to 9.8 billion korunas. The plan for this year provided for only 2.1 billion worth of arms production, which is only 10.8 percent of the 1988 production volume, and the plan for 1992 for only 1.4 billion korunas worth of military technology." According to Fuele, "this rapid pace of conversion jeopardizes the entire economy of the Slovak Republic."

Fuele believes that the economic and social consequences of conversion should be financed from the federal budget, because the past profits of Slovak arms manufacturers, too, went into the federal budget. He mentions that a final decision on this issue has not yet been made.

The author stresses that "alternative production programs" will not offset the loss of jobs in arms industry enterprises as this year they will represent only 15 percent and next year only 30 percent of the former

volume of arms production. Moreover, these alternative programs will require investments of 7 billion korunas in the next few years. Fuele points out that the social problems are aggravated by the fact that most arms industry factories are concentrated in only three districts—Martin, Povazska Bystrica, and Zvolen.

Bratislava SMENA in Slovak on 9 January on page 2 carries a 450-word Tibor Bucha commentary entitled "Will Klaus Pay for the 'Axe'?" The commentary argues that the federation ought to compensate Slovakia for the reduction of arms production, all the more so as Slovak arms manufacturers surrendered 45 billion korunas to the federal budget over the last 13 years. In this context Bucha criticizes the fact that, instead of the requested 4 billion korunas, the Slovak Republic was promised only 1 billion korunas from the federal budget for 1991 and 1992 to come to terms with the consequences of conversion.

Bratislava VEREJNOST in Slovak on 10 January on page 2 carries a 400-word Michal Galat commentary entitled "Arms Production Continues." Galat says that the Slovak government "did not accept the decision of federal bodies on the conversion of arms production" because compliance with it "would have had incalculable economic and social consequences in Slovakia." Galat calls the Slovak decision "not only logical but also warranted" as "even the most advanced country with democratic traditions could not afford abolishing arms production immediately." He says that "in spite of a certain questioning of the technical standard of Czechoslovak-made weapons, there is a relatively great interest in them in the world."

Calfa Criticizes Decision

AU1601193591

[Editorial Report] Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech on 9 and 10 January publishes two commentaries by Zbynek Fiala responding to the decision of the Slovak government of 8 January to "slow down" the pace of conversion of the Slovak arms industry approved by the Federal Government. While the 9 January commentary does not mention the Slovak government session and responds to it only indirectly, the 10 January commentary questions the wisdom of the Slovak decision to continue the production of tanks at a time when, under the Paris conventional disarmament treaty, Czechoslovakia has only 40 months to eliminate its 1,600 "excess" tanks.

Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech on 9 January on page 2 carries a 600-word Zbynek Fiala commentary entitled "And What Is More, We Were Good at It." Without mentioning the Slovak government decision of 8 January, Fiala takes issue with those who "continually nourish the illusion that the source of arms producers' difficulties is someone's subjective and romantic decision."

Fiala first responds to the argument that the arms industry is a "pillar" of the Czechoslovak economy, without which it will "collapse." He says that even at its peak in 1987, the production of weaponry accounted for only 3 percent of the total volume of Czechoslovak industrial production and that its discontinuation therefore "cannot bring about the downfall of the entire economy." The production of weaponry was not even "a pillar of exports," Fiala continues. In 1970, for example, exports of weaponry accounted for 10.4 percent of Czechoslovak exports and in the subsequent years this proportion dropped by about 25 percent. Moreover, more than three quarters of all exports of weaponry were accounted for by exports to the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact countries in exchange for other weapons and "their contribution to the economy was minimal." The other exports of weaponry went mostly to Arab countries "for generously growing government credits, over which our bankers are now tearing their hair out."

Fiala also responds to the arms' producers' complaint that "it all came too abruptly." He points out that the conventional disarmament treaty signed in Paris in November 1990 "was in the making for three years and perhaps even longer;" in the Soviet Union, the main customer for Czechoslovak weapons, the press had been discussing the need to reduce the military budget for several years; and that two years ago even the Czechoslovak communist government approved a program of conversion. Besides, even international statistics show that the volume of world arms sales is falling. "He who did not believe all this made a mistake. And mistakes must be paid for," Fiala says.

Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech on 10 January on page 2 carries a 400-word Zbynek Fiala commentary entitled "Producing and Eliminating at One and the Same Time?" In the commentary, in which he responds to the 8 January session of the Slovak government, Fiala admits that the conversion of the arms industry is a "catastrophe" for Slovakia's Vah Valley where most of the arms factories are situated. He believes, however, that "this painful and urgent problem should not be dealt with in such a way that it becomes a catastrophe for entire Czechoslovakia."

He also says: "Under the terms of the Paris treaty, we are to eliminate, among other conventional weapons, 1,600 excess tanks. This must be done in a manner which is exceedingly demanding materially and financially as well as in terms of time. Our experts are dripping with cold sweat when they think about how to accomplish this task within the set deadline of 40 months after the treaty's coming into force. It seems that, if the pace of conversion of the production of military technology is 'slowed down,' as the Slovak government communique states, we will be producing and scrapping tanks at one and the same time. Or shall we be selling them? Such a proposal had already been made by the tank producers last spring and the overwhelming majority of the tanks produced since then stand to this day in their factory yard. Naturally, one can always find countries to whom no one else will sell tanks, or at least not as many as they would like to have. This is why, among other institutions, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must deliver its opinion on

the issuance of a license for each sale of this commodity—lest we, too, belong to the countries to which no one will sell anything as a consequence of a single profitable business deal. Judging from Slovak Deputy Prime Minister Jan Carnogursky's statement on television on Tuesday [8 January], however, one does not have the impression that he counts very much on a federal license for such sales. Let us hope that the last word has not yet been spoken."

Criticism Rejected

AU1601195191 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 11 Jan 91 p 3

[Igor Cibula commentary: "Are They Looking for Pretexts?; Objections to the Decision To Halt Conversion"]

[Text] Some Prague dailies have not found understanding for the decision of the Slovak government to annul the verdict of the federal administration banning the production of arms in Slovakia. They do not accept as an argument the explanation that the process of conversion must be adequate to the potential of the arms factories to reorient their production program to the production of civilian goods without serious negative socioeconomic repercussions. Even an author who is close to the federal prime minister claims in yesterday's issue of MLADA FRONTA DNES that the overwhelming majority of the tanks produced after the federal administration's verdict "now stand in the factory yard." The Martin machine builders are not aware of this and the Slovak government, too, surely would not have made a careless decision on this matter, i.e. it would not have made its decision if it did not avail itself of reliable background information about the chances of marketing our heavy military technology abroad.

Another objection was raised in connection with the statement made on television by Jan Carnogursky, first deputy prime minister of the Slovak Republic, when explaining the circumstances of the decision to correct the federal government's economically incompetent position concerning the discontinuation of the production of heavy weapons in Slovakia. Supposedly, the statement created the impression that Carnogursky "did not count very much on a federal license for such sales." A single profitable business deal—if, for example, tanks from Martin landed in the hands of an inconvenient customer—could then supposedly expose our state to the risk of a trade embargo. The above reasoning is very close to the premise that when some decision is made in Slovakia it is bound to be unreasonable.

Government circles in Bratislava realize that the conversion of the arms industry remains a topical social program. Nevertheless, given the current state of the Slovak economy, it is unrealistic. The decision to stop arms production in Slovakia would have been only an empty humanitarian gesture if it deprived people of their livelihood who depend on its existence. For the time being, there exist no financial resources for the start of their retraining and for the introduction of alternative engineering production programs of a peaceful nature. The structural specifics of our national economy require in some areas a different approach than the problems of the advanced industry in Bohemia, where the conversion issue is not as controversial and does not have an impact on politics.

Pragocentrists burdened with anti-Slovak prejudice once again philosophize [mudruju] over a situation, for the emergence of which not only Slovaks are responsible. Instead of seeking understanding, they are looking for pretexts to prove the Slovak government guilty of unfairness, to say the least, toward the federal executive. Luckily, their Czechoslovakist forays will not reach most Slovak readers. What is worse, however, is that Czech readers who do not even have the chance to learn what the situation in Slovakia really looks like are not protected against them.

Slovakia Preparing for Cut in Czech Energy Supply

AU1601154991

[Editorial Report] Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak on 15 January on page 2 carries a 700-word Alexander Szabo article entitled "We Must Help Ourselves." The article discusses expected future energy shortages in Slovakia and possible ways of responding to them.

Szabo says that the CSFR Ministry of Economy has decided to comply with Czechoslovakia's international commitment to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions by gradually taking out of operation some coal-fired power stations in the Czech Republic, but also in the Slovak Republic. The problematic aspect of this decision is, Szabo continues, that "while the Czech energy system avails itself of a 20 percent reserve in electricity production," which has until now been exported to Slovakia, "and will therefore be able to meet its commitments without greater difficulties by canceling energy supplies to Slovakia," Slovakia has no such reserves and, moreover, depends on electricity supplies from the Czech Republic.

According to unspecified "experts" quoted by Szabo, the gap between Slovakia's energy production and consumption is expected to increase from "fewer than six terra watt [terrawatt] hours in 1990 to "approximately 1,000 megawatt of installed capacity in the year 2000."

Because future imports from Bohemia are "unrealistic," because electricity imports from elsewhere would cost 2,000 korunas per megawatt hour at the koruna's current rate of exchange, because increased electricity production by hydroelectric power plants is "limited by natural conditions," and because additional conventional power stations would have to be fired by imported fuel, Szabo sees "the construction of two additional nuclear power plant units of Western type as the only realistic way out." While the first unit should "cover the projected gap" between Slovak electricity production and consumption,

the output of the second unit should be exported to recoup the cost of imports of Western equipment needed to build the two units.

According to Szabo, there exist three possible locations for the new nuclear power plant units: Kecerovce in East Slovakia, Mochovce, and Jaslovske Bohunice. Slovak Prime Minister Meciar will reportedly discuss the question of Kecerovce with East Slovak representatives" in Kosice today."

Slovak Communists on Party's Name, Current Issues

AU1601190691 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 9 Jan 91 p 3

["(AO)"-signed report: "A Name Change Is on the Horizon"]

[Text] Bratislava—"We entered the new year with a serious responsibility—putting the finishing touches to transforming the Communist Party of Slovakia-Party of the Democratic Left [KSS-SDL] into a new left-wing party," emphasized KSS-SDL Chairman Peter Weiss at the beginning of yesterday's news conference in Bratislava. "In harmony with the resolutions of the Presov congress, the Central Committee should make a decision in the next few weeks on dropping the first part of the party's double-barreled name. This will not involve formalities, but is a logical conclusion to the fundamental transformations within the party and will put an end to the debate which has unnecessarily attracted Communists' attention away from important social issues, from the submission of alternative proposals, and—in particular—from local policy. After all, 30 percent of the elected mayors and council leaders in Slovakia are members of the KSS-SDL."

In reply to a question from journalists on how he will react if a three-fifths majority of KSS-SDL Central Committee members does not adopt a change in the party's name, Weiss remarked that this would be in contradiction to the conclusions reached at the Presov congress and would be an erroneous step backwards. He would also draw the personal political consequences from this. After the party is renamed, its members will be reregistered. This will be conditional upon their agreement with the fundamental congress documents which are forthright and which do not deny the possibility of the development of other idea streams and platforms within the party.

On the subject of the expropriation of Communist Party of Czechoslovakia property, KSS-SDL representatives stated that part of it will be sold and part of it will be transferred to the use of other political parties. However, it is still not clear how—in accordance with the terms of the "constitutional" law—it will be returned to the people. They consider the over-pricing of consumer goods to be unavoidable. However, it is a different matter altogether whether the small-scale absolute liberalization of prices should take place the way it is taking place. In connection with the problem of the conversion of the armaments industry, it is necessary to ask who was interested in making sure that Slovak armaments were not exported, who immediately replaced them on world markets, and what the consequences of this will be for the economy and the social situation in Slovakia.

They expressed their conviction that only political refugees should be granted asylum in the CSFR. The Czechoslovak Government should introduce a compulsory money exchange for "tourists" from Eastern European countries.

They described the definition of attitudes within Civic Forum as a normal process which is accompanied by the differentiation of interests within this governing movement. It is essential not to dramatize or to underestimate the situation, because political development not only in the Czech lands but throughout the federation will be dependent on this. Weiss again repeated that the proposals for increasing the president's authority are unjustifiable. He criticized the secrecy in domestic and foreign policy, secrecy which we had more than enough of under the previous regime.

Tax on Periodicals Approved, Carnogursky Protests

AU1601152391

[Editorial Report] Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak on 9 January on page 2 carries a 100-word announcement of the Federal Ministry of Finance on the taxation of "printing industry products" as of 1 January 1991. Bratislava SMENA in Slovak on 9 January on page 1 carries a 400-word undated interview with Jan Carnogursky, first deputy prime minister of the Slovak Republic, on the above decision of the Federal Ministry of Finance.

According to the Federal Ministry of Finance announcement, "nonperiodical publications" (i.e. books) will be subject to a zero sales tax, periodical publications subject to a 22 percent sales tax, and periodical as well as nonperiodical "advertisement and erotic publications" subject to a 32 percent sales tax. The 32 percent tax will also apply to "other printed matter."

In his interview in Bratislava SMENA, Carnogursky says that the above decision of the Federal Ministry of Finance means that his proposal for a "differentiated tax" on periodical press was not accepted, with the exception of the 32 percent tax on advertisements and erotic magazines. He agrees with the interviewer that the decision jeopardizes the existence of a "considerable part of the Slovak press." Asked whether the Slovak government is considering measures to "protect Slovak dailies" (which are affected by the tax more severely than Czech dailies, because of the small newspaper market in Slovakia), Carnogursky replies that "no specific measures" have been decided upon yet but, basically, there exist two possibilities: a unilateral reduction of the tax or subsidization of the Slovak press. He says in this context: "Making a decision on Slovak protective measures is complicated because the law on the division of powers

stands in the way. Unilateral measures could be taken only at the cost of violating this law. We are not convinced as yet that the cause is so important that it would warrant the possible consequences of such a decision."

VPN Wants To Stay Movement, 'Settle Accounts'

AU1601135391 Bratislava SMENA in Slovak 8 Jan 91 p 1

[Juraj Gressner report: "The Public Against Violence Will Remain a Movement Until Parliamentary Elections; Coming to Terms With the Past"—first paragraph is SMENA introduction]

[Excerpts] **A good mood prevailed at the first briefing of the Public Against Violence movement this year, which took place yesterday [7 January] in the Mozart House in Bratislava. In particularly good spirits was Fedor Gal, chairman of the Slovak Council of the Public Against Violence movement, who informed journalists of the goals of the movement in the immediate future.**

Undoubtedly, the most important event will be the Public Against Violence assembly, which will take place in Topolcany on 22-23 February 1991. Even after the assembly, Public Against Violence will remain a movement and will not be transformed into a political party. Fedor Gal explained this by asserting that the diversity of opinions within the framework of the Public Against Violence movement in Slovakia is not as great as in the Czech Civic Forum; therefore, there is no danger of a split. Hence the constitutions will be the main concern of the Public Against Violence movement in the immediate future and, in this connection, the preparations of public discussions and dialogues with citizens, then the realization and optimization of the distribution of power, and last but not least, the important coalition negotiations with the Christian Democratic Movement and the Democratic Party representatives. [passage omitted]

Fedor Gal, chairman of the Slovak Council of the Public Against Violence movement, criticized the current monopoly of the Postal Newspaper Distribution Service [PNS], which is interfering with the newspaper and journal distribution in an absolutely unacceptable way. Its high-handed conduct actually threatens the very existence of some editorial offices. [passage omitted]

"We, in the Slovak Council of the Public Against Violence movement, have decided to continue the initiative—the significance of which is obvious—of coming to terms with the past," Fedor Gal said. "Specific people and specific political subjects are responsible for the wasting away we suffered during the past decades. We cannot postpone the settling of accounts with them." [passage omitted]

Jeszenszky on 'Successful' International Offensive

LD1701091391 Budapest MTI in English 0635 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Budapest, January 17 (MTI)—It appears that the successful Thursday dawn offensive by the international forces stationed in the Gulf region has proven that international law cannot be violated unpunished. It is hoped to deter all potential aggressors from bringing other nations into subjection, Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszy told MTI's correspondent at dawn on Thursday.

The foreign minister expressed the hope that the war would shortly come to an end without having any surprises on store for the world, and that the successful first attack would prevent Iraq from extending the war in other directions.

Jeszenszky pointed out that the Hungarian measures had from the beginning been determined by the fact that Hungary was one of the first countries to join the international economic embargo against Iraq. Hungary has also proven by concrete deeds that it is on the right side, namely by sending a medical unit on a humanitarian mission to the region. Hungary's participation is then not of a military nature: it is ready to come to the aid of everybody in need of medical treatment. With its measures, the Hungarian Government is going to show that it regards adherence to international law as binding for all states.

The security measures adopted in Hungary are in no way directed against the Arab peoples and Arab citizens, the minister said. Finally, as the head of the ministry which supervises the inter-departmental committee in charge of affairs relating to the Gulf war, he noted that an imposingly calm atmosphere prevailed among the population of the affected countries. In Hungary, too, everybody can feel safe. Naturally, it will be most reassuring if peace is restored as soon as possible, he added.

Armed Forces Implement Security Measures

LD1701070591 Budapest MTI in English 0633 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Budapest, January 17 (MTI)—Once the war broke out in the Gulf on the night of Thursday, the measures worked out in advance for the event of an armed conflict came into force.

Lieutenant General Laszlo Borsits, chief of staff of the Hungarian Army, told MTI's correspondent that he had called all services to go on the alert. The commanders come under separate measures, which the general did not elaborate.

He also said that he had notified Arpad Goncz, president of the Republic and commander-in-chief of the Hungarian Army, on the breakout of the war after 1 a.m.

The national police headquarters said that all special police units had been put on the alert, and a certain number of policemen stood prepared to avert possible unexpected events.

In addition to this, several security measures have come into force. An armed service has been ordered to defend the Paks nuclear power plant, the oil refineries, the oil pipelines and the underground stations. Guards are on duty outside the government offices and the buildings of embassies directly affected. Police squads have gone into operation in the counties.

Speaking to MTI's correspondent, Janos Herman, spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, said that an inter-departmental committee was to meet in the early morning hours to assess the events of the Gulf war and discuss the situation of Hungarian citizens staying in the region. The only information available at the moment is that the Hungarians in Israel and Egypt are well.

Military Medical Unit Arrives in Saudi Arabia

AU1601104891 Budapest MTI in English 1823 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Budapest, 14 January (MTI)—A 37-member Hungarian medical unit arrived in Saudi Arabia on Monday to participate in medical work there, on the basis of an agreement between the governments of Hungary and Saudi Arabia, Gyorgy Keleti, spokesman of the Hungarian Ministry of Defence announced at a press briefing.

The medical unit is to work under Saudi Arabian command and not a British one, as stated earlier. It is thus possible for the Hungarian doctors to work relatively safely, in a hospital 350 km from the war area, Keleti said.

The Saudi Arabian Government welcomed the arrival of the Hungarian unit and stated that it would pay all the expenses of their stay.

The names of the unit's members will not be disclosed due to security reasons.

The unit includes an MP, who is a general practitioner.

The 37 experts—25 men and 12 women—have been chosen from among 150 volunteers. Nine of them are civilians. Members of the unit include 23 doctors, 11 other medical employees, two interpreters, and one administrative employee. Doctors are to work in different fields. There is also a midwife in the group.

There was a farewell ceremony organized for the unit on Sunday, the spokesman said. This was attended by Prime Minister Jozsef Antall, who stressed that the unit would fulfil a humanitarian mission. He said earlier there had been plans to send a military contingent to the region but this had been ruled out by the government. It was then that they decided to send a medical unit so as to provide medical care not only for soldiers but civilians as well.

'No Wounded Have Arrived Yet'

LD1701100391 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0800 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Members of the Hungarian medical team who are in Saudi Arabia are fine. The Ministry of Defense

managed to contact the leader of the 37-member team during the dawn hours. He said they are all well and are staying in the hopsital, but so far they have no work, since no wounded have arrived yet.

I think this is important information, and not only for us Hungarians.

Military Official on Iraqi 'Wonder Weapon'

AU1601121991 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 15 Jan 91 p 2

[Interview with Colonel Gyorgy Szentesi, head of the International and Security Policy Department of the Defense Ministry, by "(F.K.)"; place and date not given: "What Could Iraq's Wonder Weapon Be?"; first paragraph is NEPSZABADSAG introduction]

[Text] Quoting various Iraqi sources, news agencies have increasingly reported on the possibility of Iraq deploying some kind of highly effective weapon of mass destruction if war broke out in the Gulf. What kind of weapon of mass destruction could Saddam Husayn have?—we asked Gyorgy Szentesi.

[NEPSZABADSAG] According to rumors that emerged last week, Iraq has nuclear weapons.

[Szentesi] This is unlikely; however, if it does have such weapons, it is still sure that Iraq has never tested them and, without previous test explosions, it is a risky venture deploying such weapons. The same applies to the use of bacteriological weapons, because these weapons also affect those who deploy them. We are sure that Iraq is in possession of chemical weapons because they deployed such weapons in the war against Iran. It is highly unlikely, however, that the recent reports were speaking about either of the aforementioned weapons systems.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Then what did these reports refer to?

[Szentesi] There is a so-called aerosol bomb, or volumetric explosives as they are called by the experts. This works by spraying inflammable material over the enemy positions and exploding it. This leads to a double effect: On the one hand, damage is caused by the shock wave; on the other hand, the explosive burning uses up the oxygen in the air on a large area, and lack of oxygen can cause death. The Americans tested smaller aerosol bombs in Vietnam, but not against live forces, but in preparing a helicopter landing site in the jungle. This bomb does not produce a crater in the earth but leaves a relatively smooth area after explosion.

[NEPSZABADSAG] In your view, is this the Iraqi wonder weapon?

[Szentesi] It is possible; however, the fact that no such weapon was deployed against Iran contradicts this. I, therefore, repeatedly stress that all this is only supposition.

Soviet Troops Withdrawing 'According to Schedule'

LD1501192491 Budapest MTI in English 1357 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Budapest, January 14 (MTI)—The Soviet troops are withdrawing according to schedule, Colonel Gyorgy Keleti, spokesman for the Ministry of Defence, told MTI on Monday.

There is no sign of the pull-out slowing down: On Sunday six trains left the country, with boarding of several more currently taking place.

Since March last year, 60 percent of the 100,000 or so soldiers from the southern army troops, plus relatives, have left the country, including 80 percent of combat units. To date, 850 of the 1,352 trains have crossed into Soviet territory.

President Goncz Reshuffles Government Posts

LD1601160491 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1310 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Letter from President Arpad Goncz read by National Assembly Speaker Gyorgy Szabad to a National Assembly session in Budapest—live]

[Text] Esteemed National Assembly, I announce that Arpad Goncz, president of our Republic, has addressed an official communication to the National Assembly. I shall read the text of the official communication.

I inform the esteemed National Assembly that on the basis of Section 4 of Paragraph 33 of the Hungarian Republic's Constitution, on the recommendation of the prime minister, I relieve from their posts Labor Minster Dr. Sandor Gyorivanyi, at his own request; Minister Without Portfolio Jeno Gerbovics; Minister Without Portfolio Dr. Gyula Kiss; Agriculture Minister Ferenc Jozsef Nagy, effective 16 January 1991, with recognition of their merits.

At the same time I have appointed Dr. Elemer Gergatz as minister of agriculture, Dr. Gyula Kiss as minister of labor, and Ferenc Jozsef Nagy as minister without portfolio.

Dated this day 16 January
Signed Arpad Goncz, president of the Hungarian Republic

Fur May Perform Tasks of Deputy Prime Minister

LD1601094891 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0530 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Lajos Fur has heard not only mysterious hints, but also precisely formulated allusions to the effect that he could expect to be performing the tasks of a deputy prime minister, or something similar to this, in the government. The defense minister does not consider this conceivable at the moment, and as he stated in his interview to MAGYAR HIRLAP, he trusts there will not be any unexpected situations.

Commentary Says Saddam Husayn 'Chose War'

LD1701093291 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 0600 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Andrzej Zychowicz commentary]

[Text] It is difficult to make the decision to start war. President Bush had to take the burden of this decision on his shoulders. Diplomatic efforts were made until the last moment to find a way out. The world wanted to avoid this war. The whole time, however, the key to the events in the Persian Gulf lay in the hands of Saddam Husayn. It was he who chose war instead of peace. Firstly, when he attacked, seized, and plundered Kuwait, and later when he did not want to relinquish his conquest. He rejected the calls of the entire world, he did not want to accept the successive resolutions of the UN Security Council. The coalition of 28 countries includes the armies of America, and European and Arab countries. It is not a holy war as Saddam Husayn wants to present it, one between the believers of Islam with the infidel, but an imperative battle with aggression that the international community opposes. The aim of the allied forces is not to conquer Iraq, but to return freedom to Kuwait.

All But Embassy Staff Reportedly Depart Iraq

LD1701102491 Warsaw PAP in English 0923 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 17—"The Polish ambassador and his associates cannot leave Iraq. However, all the employees of Dromex (road building enterprise) managed to do so," reports the GAZETA WYBORCZA today, writing in part:

"Dromex employees who were in Iraq on Wednesday [16 January] crossed the Iraqi-Turkish border. They are headed for Istanbul from where an Austrian plane will take them to Warsaw via Vienna.

"Poland's ambassador to Iraq Krzysztof Plominski who on Tuesday ordered an evacuation of his staff, did not make it out of Iraq. When hours after the Dromex bus reached the Turkish border, the ambassador, five of his staff and a Polish reporter also showed up at the border, it turned out that it was already closed. The (ambassador's) car returned to Baghdad where—according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs—"about six embassies are still operating, including those of the USSR and China." The Poles can still return to their country via Jordan or through Moscow.

"There are no other Poles in Iraq except for the embassy staff and the newsman. 107 Polish physicians and nurses remain on contract in Saudi Arabia. Not many Poles remain in Jordan, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The biggest number is in Israel: The Foreign Ministry assesses that there could be up to 11 thousand illegally employed Poles there."

All Poles have left Iraq on January 16, PAP learned at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Thirty seven employees of the Dromex company crossed the Iraqi-Turkish border on Wednesday and are in Turkey. 6 people of the personnel of the Polish Embassy and the commercial section along with Ambassador Krzysztof Plominski departed from Baghdad on board a chartered Soviet plane to Moscow where they are at present. The Polish ambassador was one of the last diplomatic representatives to leave Iraq.

A group of Polish employees of the Polservice company left Baghdad in the direction of Jordan in their own cars. The Foreign Ministry thus far has no news of their whereabouts.

'Minifleet' To Arrive in Gulf 22-23 Jan

LD1601114191 Warsaw PAP in English 1530 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, Jan. 14—Two Polish vessels, Navy hospital ship "Wodnik" and rescue ship "Piast" reached Port Said Sunday evening. The two ships are to join the multinational forces in the Persian Gulf.

"Wodnik's" captain, and at same time in command of this Polish minifleet, Commodore Zdzislaw Zmuda, expects the ships to reach the Saudi Arabian port of Jeddah on January 16.

Zmuda also expects to receive orders from the Saudi command as to where the ships are to report in the Persian Gulf. Most probably the vessels will reach Gulf waters between January 22-23.

Soviet Troops Reportedly on Lithuanian Border

LD1601114191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1057 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, January 16 (TANJUG)—The Army has put up barbed wire in Lithuania on both sides of the road leading toward the Soviet-Polish border, claim Polish newspapers on Wednesday.

The border-crossing Ogrodniki-Lazdijal continues open. "GAZETA WIBORCZA" writes that the Soviet Army was preparing to close this only border-crossing between Poland and Lithuania.

The paper claims that the Soviet Union has sent 120 commandos to the border. Apart from them, the border was being guarded by some 700 troops, posted at every 15 kilometers.

On the Polish side there are 120 or so border guards, under the command of the Interior Ministry. They have been joined in the past few days by some 30 new soldiers.

Of late the border was being lighted at night by floodlights, and those attempting illegal crossing are being sought by helicopters.

Skubiszewski on Relations With Lithuania

LD1601181291 Warsaw PAP in English 1536 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 16—We have done all that could be done for Lithuania, said Minister of Foreign Affairs Krzysztof Skubiszewski at a meeting of Sejm committees for foreign affairs and contacts with expatriate Poles here today.

The stance of the West in this matter is unusually reserved, he added. Asked by the deputies whether the Foreign Ministry would bow to the pressure from various political groups demanding sending a Polish ambassador to Vilnius, Skubiszewski replied that under the present situation existing in Lithuania this is out of question because Lithuania is not a fully independent country.

"If we did so, we would be isolated with such a move," Skubiszewski concluded.

Solidarity Urges World Support

LD1601021891 Warsaw PAP in English 1913 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Gdansk, Jan 15—The Presidium of the Solidarity National Commission issued today an appeal to the international labour movement which reads in part:

An unprecedented aggression in Central Europe at the time of building a common European home is the violation of human rights and dignity. We must not leave Lithuanians alone in their despair and struggle.

The Solidarity Union appeals to the international labour movement to support Lithuania in her efforts to gain sovereignty and democracy. We also appeal for humanitarian assistance to Lithuania, the document says.

Offer To Host Government in Exile

LD1601020391 Warsaw PAP in English 1445 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Lublin, Jan. 15—Following the developments in Lithuania Lublin authorities published a statement, saying in part:

In case a Lithuanian government in exile is formed in Poland, we declare our readiness to receive it and provide conditions for its functioning in Lublin.

A similar offer has been made by Warsaw.

The authorities of Lublin are also to appeal to local institutions and organizations to host, if the need be, casualties of war and political refugees from Lithuania.

Voivod Urges 'Dignity' at Lithuanian Protests

LD1601015491 Warsaw PAP in English 2242 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Krakow, Jan. 14—Voivod of Krakow Tadeusz Piekarz appealed to the town's residents to keep the solidarity demonstrations with the people of Lithuania in an atmosphere of dignity corresponding to the resistance and struggle of the Lithuanian people and the Solidarity ethos of Poles.

"The events in front of the Soviet Consulate on Jan. 14 turned from a manifestation of unity with the Lithuanian people into an attack on an exterritorial mission of the USSR. Police were ordered to guard this mission. Let us show respect for international law and express our feelings in a dignified way. The situation calls for this and so does the honour of Krakow," the voivod said.

Demonstration at USSR Embassy

LD1601020891 Warsaw PAP in English 1534 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 15—We are all with you. This was expressed by the Sejm and Senate but mainly by Deputies Michnik and Dowgiallo and Senator Celinski who are now at the side of your president, Senator Ryszard Reiff told today a rally staged by representatives of the Lithuanian minority in Poland.

The demonstration took place in front of the Soviet Embassy in Warsaw today.

Later on, the demonstrators marched to the American Embassy to convey to its employees an open letter of Lithuanians who are Polish citizens to President Bush to appeal for support for liberation efforts by Baltic states.

Lithuanian Border Crossing Operating Normally

LD1601125691 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1200 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Movement is taking place without any dislocation at the Ogrodniki and Kuznica Bialostockie road border crossing points (into) Lithuania. Some travel agencies, i.e. Orbis, have, however, stopped the departures of excursion groups. Minibuses running from Bialystok to Grodno and Vilnius are running without any problems and are on schedule.

Rail Traffic Operates 'Normally'

LD1501113691 Warsaw PAP in English 1850 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 14—The railways between Vilnius and Warsaw operated normally today. There were no delays of passenger trains coming from the USSR to the border crossing of Kuznica Bialostocka, PAP learnt in the chief headquarters of the PKP Polish State Railways today.

Neither were there any disturbances in the local railway communication near the border serviced by PKP.

Soviet Army's Dubynin Cited on Troop Withdrawal

LD1601162591 Warsaw PAP in English 1303 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 16—"The pulling out of Soviet troops from the Republic of Poland is ruled out before the complete withdrawal of the Western Group of the Soviet Army from Germany," Gen. Viktor Dubynin, commander of the Northern Group of the Soviet Army stationed in Poland, said at the start of the third round of Polish-Soviet negotiations held in Moscow between Jan. 10 and 11, the GAZETA WYBORCZA paper reported today.

Following are excerpts of the text of Dubynin's statement delivered during the negotiations, carried by the ZNAMYA POBYEDY paper issued for Soviet soldiers in Poland and reprinted by GAZETA WYBORCZA:

"The Polish side (...) tries to present the soldiers of the northern groups of the Soviet Army as occupants and international offenders. It wants them to withdraw from its territory like POW's—in closed and sealed cars, disarmed, with no military equipment. In this way it is going to dishonour the army which in the years 1944-45 liberated the Polish nation, (...) established Poland's Western border on the Odra and Nysa rivers.

"If the Polish side voluntarily rejects habits adopted in the civilised world, we have a right to pose a question: Who will pay us for human losses suffered during the liberation of Poland...?

"(...) As the commander of the Northern Group of the Soviet Army I firmly state: We will be going back home—there is no other possibility. But we will be leaving holding our heads high, with spread banners, satisfied that we have fulfilled an internationalist duty, with dignity and honour. And if the Polish side does not agree with the Soviet protocol settling legal, property and financial issues and does not show goodwill, the Soviet Army will nevertheless enter the territory of the superpower, the Soviet Union, following our plans and routes we have planned. In this case we will be only responsible for the lives and health of Soviet citizens amd we will shake off responsibility for the Polish side."

In connection with this statement Polish Foreign Vice-Minister Jerzy Makarczyk admitted the existing Polish-Soviet differences but said that Dubynin's statement was not an official stand of Soviet political authorities.

The Soviet press attache in Warsaw told "GAZETA WYBORCZA" that his embassy had not obtained any information on this issue.

Finance, Bank Officials to Debt Reduction Talks

LD1601022791 Warsaw PAP in English 1604 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 15—Vice Minister of Finance and Government Plenipotentiary for Debt Affairs Janusz Sawicki and Vice President of the National Bank of Poland NBP Grzegorz Wojtowicz today left for meetings with the finance ministers of the 7 most industrialized countries.

The two will also hold talks with the chairmen of the Paris and London Clubs grouping Poland's bank and government creditors.

"The joint talks will zero in on the reduction of Poland's debt. The Polish Government wants to speed up negotiations on the matter. These began last May with the statement of Vice Premier Balcerowicz at a session of the Executive Committee of the International Monetary Fund in Washington. We know that both the governments and commercial banks understand and accept a reduction of our debt," Wojtowicz told PAP, adding that Poland will try to convince the West to cut the debt by 80 percent.

Industrialized Nations Should Reduce Debt

LD1601013691 Warsaw PAP in English 1900 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 14—Undersecretary of state at the Foreign Affairs Ministry Aleksander Krzyminski received the ambassadors of the seven most industrialized countries of the world and presented to them a letter from President Lech Walesa calling for a reduction of Poland's debt owed to those countries.

In his letter, the Polish president stresses Poland's will to join states with a stabilized democratic system, adding that this calls for cooperation on the part of the free world. Subsequently, an easing of the debt burden could have historic significance, Walesa argues.

The president also underlines the understanding and sacrifice of society which is paying dearly for the costs of credits drawn "by authorities enforced upon us." "It is not the fault of Poles that their economy was ruined by the communist system which is alien to us," the president points out.

"Without a solution to the debt problem, Poland's development is impossible. The letter recalls our initiatives, the proposal of a 80-percent reduction of the foreign debt, already passed on to the heads of those states and the leaders of their government," Jaroslaw Mulewicz, the director of the Department of International Economic Relations at the Foreign Ministry told PAP.

The letter was presented on the eve of a week-long round of talks between Finance Vice Minister Janusz Sawicki and representatives of "the seven" to be held in the capitals of those countries.

The talks will precede negotiations between Poland and the Paris Club scheduled for the turn of January and February. The agreement with the Paris Club on the postponement of repayment of debt falling in the period of 1989 to March 31, 1991 runs out in the first quarter of this year.

Skubiszewski Clarifies Proposed Pact Session

LD1601015791 Warsaw PAP in English 2250 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 14—Asked (after a government meeting) about the proposal of Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier to discuss the question of the Warsaw Treaty at a meeting of representatives of the Polish, Czechoslovak and Hungarian Governments in Vysehrad, Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski answered that the meeting will not deal with this matter. It is only to push forward cooperation of these three states.

We must deal with the question of the Warsaw Treaty without further delay but separately, Skubiszewski said.

Kubiczek Appoints New Statistical Office Boss

LD1601021391 Warsaw PAP in English 1909 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 15—The prime minister recalled today Franciszek Kubiczek from the head of the Main Statistical Office (GUS) and appointed Bohdan Wyznikiewicz to the post.

Bohdan Wyznikiewicz, 43, a doctor of economic sciences, was a GUS employee for many years. For three years he worked in the secretariat of the U.S. Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva. He is also a consultant of the World Bank.

I expect a 100 percent independence, the new GUS head said after his visit at the prime minister's. The statistical office should be an independent institution on which nobody is going to exert pressure.

I have no intention of adjusting things to anybody's liking although I am aware such practices took place in the past, Wyznikiewicz stated.

Bielecki, German Ambassador Discuss Relations

AU1601122591 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 11 Jan 91 p 2

[K.K. report: "Great Tasks in Store"]

[Text] Pime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki received FRG Ambassador Guenther Knackstedt in Warsaw on 10 January.

In a 40-minute talk, they discussed general aspects of Polish- German relations, after which the prime minister and ambassador spoke to RZECZPOSPOLITA.

Guenter Knackstedt: We both agreed for the need to increase foreign investments in Poland. In this context we discussed the possibility of improving the presence and influx of new German capital into Poland. Of course, a detailed discussion on these topics requires more time than the amount we had today.

Jan Krzysztof Bielecki: Right now it is difficult to say what are the first steps we should take in this direction, especially because there are many steps, and all of them are important for mutual cooperation. I drew attention to the entirety of Polish-German relations in my Sejm expose. I am sure political and economic problems have priority.

Guenter Knackstedt: We said that interpersonal relationships between Germans and Poles are more important than anything.

Jan Krzysztof Bielecki: Indeed. We said that the bridge we intend to erect between our countries must stand on interpersonal relationships. We need a deeper and better mutual understanding of the difference between the nature of our two countries and of the need for reconciliation according to the Franco-German pattern.

Great tasks are in store in connection with the Polish-German treaty, economic cooperation, German investments in Poland, support for Polish efforts to join the EC, and other things.

Guenter Knackstedt: Fortunately, the problem of visas exists no longer. I am sure of that. The decisions have been made. The moment Germans decided to recommend the lifting of visas, progress was achieved in talks between Poland and the six countries of the Schengen group. I think the visa problem will be resolved over the next few weeks. This way, Poland's path to Europe will be opened.

Jan Krzysztof Bielecki: We also said we need a convincing example of cooperation right now. We must also overcome other barriers that still exist, mainly through our own fault. For example, it was difficult to find any responsible young people willing to go to Germany to be trained. So we must consider an acceleration of mutual relations, also on our part. I have given a trivial example, but a typical one.

Confederation Warns of 'Postcommunist Structures'

LD1601014591 Warsaw PAP in English 2107 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan 14—In a statement conveyed to PAP, the Political Council of the Confederation for an Independent Poland (KPN) said that Poland's increasingly complicated economic and social situation and the aggravating international situation were being ever more openly used by the postcommunist forces to further their ends.

New postcommunist structures are being formed, material means are being gathered and various actions are

being undertaken, frequently, by persons employed at state bodies. A lot seems to indicate that inspiration from abroad is involved. It can be expected that the activity of the advocates of the old system will soon be intensified, the KPN warned in its statement.

Fissures in Citizens Parliamentary Club

AU1601140691 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 8 Jan 90 p 2

[J.F. report: "No Further Split Foreseen"]

[Text] Does the departure of 43 deputies and senators from the OKP [Citizens Parliamentary Club] and the formation of a separate Democratic Union Club mark the beginning or the end of the OKP's disintegration? Those who remain in the OKP claim that it is not in any danger of major upheavals or splits.

For several months, the OKP had been bursting at the seams, a secret everyone knew. "There has been no unity within the OKP during the latest work by the Sejm and Senate," said Bronislaw Geremek last November. "Sometimes there was even an absence of elementary discipline. The bitterness of political groups inside the club frequently led to setbacks or even misfortunes."

As OKP chairman, Geremek tried to keep his club together. Today he is leader of the Democratic Union.

Jerzy M. Orzel, secretary of the OKP, occupying an office that until recently was occupied by Henryk Wujec, who has now joined the Democratic Union, says: "I do not expect any further split. There are circles of people in the club with unrestricted possibilities of expressing their political views. The OKP has discharged its club function recently, trying hard to participate in the legislative process. Adopting a unified stance meant having to close one's eyes to the profound divisions."

"Does the glossing over of political differences not mean a definite end of the club's role?" I asked.

"I have no such fears," replied J.M. Orzel, "especially now that the Democratic Union has quit the OKP. The stance of the OKP on various issues was always the result of essential compromises. Before we split up, there was quite a wide space in which a clash of views could occur. Now this space is much smaller, so it is easier to achieve consolidation and adopt a common stance."

Jozef Slisz, chairman of the "Solidarity" PSL [Polish Peasant Party] and of that party's parliamentary group within the OKP, agrees with Orzel. "One need not expect any new splits within the OKP," he says. "Furthermore, as a member of the OKP Presidium, I can assure you that no faction wants to follow in the Democratic Union's footsteps. In fact, there is a greater concern for the preservation of the OKP's unity."

The disintegration of the OKP into smaller clubs would create serious difficulties for the legislative process. In particular, it would make it difficult to reach accord over controversial solutions.

The question of the "Solidarity" PSL faction's leaving the OKP was discussed at a meeting of representatives of PSL voivodship-level bodies on 5 January. By a firm majority of votes, it was decided to remain in the OKP. "The leaders of 'Solidarity' PSL place a higher value on the OKP's unity," said the resolution, stressing that the presence of PSL deputies and senators in that Club is no coincidence. "The 'Solidarity' movement brought us to the OKP. Our origins compel us to consolidate, not disintegrate."

"We do not intend to finish off that which has begun to fall apart recently," says J. Slisz. "Nevertheless, some say that in future, the 'Solidarity' PSL faction should keep the path that leads away from the OKP clear. An eventual secession may depend on whether or not the present OKP lays greater emphasis on agricultural matters."

"The expression of interests and formation of parties is an essential part of the democratic process," B. Geremek said. But the future will show whether Polish public life was better off with a united OKP or a divided one.

Bielecki Appoints New Government Spokesman

LD1501115391 Warsaw PAP in English 2315 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 14—Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki has named Andrzej Zarebski as the government press spokesman.

Zarebski, 33, a graduate of the Gdansk University in the Polish language was co-organizer of the independent student union NZS. In 1981 editor of the Solidarity information service BIPS. Interned under martial law.

Since February 1990 he was head of the political desk of the GAZETA GDANSKA daily and editor of the TV programme "Widziane z Gdanska" (seen from Gdansk).

New Radio, Television Chief on Television Plans

AU1601151991 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 9 Jan 91 p 1

[Interview with Marian Terlecki, chairman of the Radio and Television Committee, by Alicja Balinska; place and date not given: "An Uncontrolled Model"]

[Text] [Balinska] You spent 1990 as director of the television center in Gdansk, which earned a reputation as a maverick center. Why is this, and what happened?

[Terlecki] We wanted to create a broadcasting center that is not under any control. We thought the first step toward this should be the appointment of a national television council or national broadcasting council. Although the government has discussed this concept, the

government views such a council as a purely administrative body of the state, partly supervised by the Ministry of Culture and Art. But we wanted it to be an independent body of experts who may not be employed either in television or in the state administration. This body would be appointed by the Sejm, Senate, and president for a six-year tenure. It would issue licenses to television stations before they begin to broadcast.

The appearance of private, public, or other stations seems inevitable because only competition can create a de facto pluralism in Polish television. One of the proposed council's major tasks would be the appointment of a director of the first channel.

[Balinska] The opinion was put forth in Gdansk whereby only the first channel would be state-controlled, whereas the second would be completely taken over by regional broadcasting centers. By what principles would this occur? Would it not be easier to create further television channels?

[Terlecki] For financial and organizational reasons, it will be a long time before a third and fourth Polish nationwide channel can be created. Over the next two or three years, however, it is necessary to decentralize and divide what there is already. Therefore the second channel should become a federation of regional programs.

[Balinska] You said all this more or less three months ago as head of the Gdansk television center. Have any developments occurred since then?

[Terlecki] No, there has been no significant change.

UOP Chief Interviewed on Reorganization

AU1701111891 Gdansk TYGODNIK GDANSKI in Polish 6 Jan 91 p 4

[Interview with Andrzej Milczanowski, chief of the Office for the Protection of the State, by Aleksandra Ciechanowicz-Sarata in Warsaw; date not given: "Everything, Or Nearly Everything, Is Secret"]

[Excerpts] [Ciechanowicz-Sarata] You used to be a prosecutor, then you spent many years as a legal adviser. Prime Minister Mazowiecki wanted to make you deputy prosecutor general, but you refused; however, you eventually agreed to become deputy chief and then chief of the Office for the Protection of the State [UOP]. Why?

[Milczanowski] The work was more interesting. I decided to head the UOP because I wanted to view professional activity and participate in it to some extent.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] You had to learn a new profession quickly.

[Milczanowski] Absolutely, although my job is more political than professional.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] Immediately after you became chief you had to supervise the personnel review of Security Service [SB] employees and reorganize that institution. What percentage of SB officers who passed the review are now serving in the UOP leadership?

[Milczanowski] Half [of the] the top-level leadership—i.e. directors of administrations and bureaus—consists of former SB functionaries who passed the review. The other half consists of brand new people.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] Who are the new people? What milieus do they come from?

[Milczanowski] To a large extent, they were linked to the Freedom and Peace Movement [WIP] and Solidarity. Of course, they had to cease their political activity the moment they became UOP functionaries. I should add that people who never belonged to the opposition have also received jobs in the UOP.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] Former WIP members are now working in the UOP, and some of them even hold leadership posts; however, WIP consisted of people who resented force of any kind and did not like any form of organization. Moreover, most of them were anarchists. What are such "artists" doing in the UOP?

[Milczanowski] I think highly of those WIP people who have joined the UOP. They are ambitious, well-organized, and disciplined. I think they consider work in the UOP to be a continuation of their escapades, only this time they are taking their work seriously.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] What conditions do candidates for UOP jobs have to fulfill?

[Milczanowski] Candidates for officer posts must have completed further education and must pass psychological tests to show their aptitude for the profession. Apart from that there is a whole series of other investigations which affect the candidate directly or indirectly.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] What do you mean directly or indirectly?

[Milczanowski] Not just the candidate himself is investigated, but the people he knows are investigated as well.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] You mean friends and relations?

[Milczanowski] I make no secret of the fact that we interview them thoroughly.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] Let me dwell on the selection UOP employees for a while. Does the UOP have a training center, and if so, where is it?

[Milczanowski] There is no UOP training center, there are training centers. That is a confidential matter, however, so I will not disclose their location.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] Then perhaps you might care to say how many pupils they have.

[Milczanowski] No, I cannot tell you that, either.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] Then perhaps you might care to reveal the profile of these training centers.

[Milczanowski] They train intelligence and counterintelligence officers.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] How long does training last?

[Milczanowski] I prefer not to say.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] Why not?

[Milczanowski] You are asking about concrete facts about which anyone can draw his own conclusions; therefore, I prefer not to discuss the training.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] How many UOP branches are there in Poland?

[Milczanowski] There are 14.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] What percentage of successfully reviewed SB officers are employed in these branches?

[Milczanowski] A large percentage; however, I wish to make it clear that all the chiefs of these branches are brand new people.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] You said that those who want to become officers must have completed their university education. I know, however, that there are high-ranking employees here who have not yet done so.

[Milczanowski] They will have to. Officers must have completed their entire university education.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] It has been publicly revealed that there is a KGB cell in Poland. Does the UOP keep an eye on it? Perhaps the UOP cooperates with it to some extent?

[Milczanowski] There is a KGB residency in Poland, and there is an equivalent UOP residency in the USSR. Relations with the KGB are equal. Let me also point out that we maintain good, equal relations with the special services of a few Western countries.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] Does the UOP cooperate with the KGB residency to any extent?

[Milczanowski] No more than it does with the Western special services. The UOP is not a satellite of any foreign service. [passage omitted]

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] It is said in police circles that 90 percent of UOP employees are former SB functionaries. How am I to treat this information?

[Milczanowski] Just as you would any police information.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] No, seriously.

[Milczanowski] I do not shun this topic. Briefly, employees in intelligence and counterintelligence must be professionals. In both branches, it takes a long time to learn the job. These are not skills one acquires after a few weeks or months. They require a long period of training and practical experience.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] To what age do you accept people?

[Milczanowski] Basically, up to 30.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] Do you also accept women?

[Milczanowski] Yes, provided they pass the entire selection and investigation process.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] Does the UOP have any cells dealing with economic crime?

[Milczanowski] Counterintelligence does have a department that deals with organized crime on an international scale.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] Do you keep an eye on the influx of drugs into Poland?

[Milczanowski] Without exaggerating the danger of drugs, I would say that this danger does exist and is a target of our interest.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] I have heard that the UOP was supposed to have 3,000 people, but has grown to 8,000.

[Milczanowski] I have never said it was supposed to have 3,000 people. The 8,000-figure estimate is also wrong.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] There are more than 3,000 people?

[Milczanowski] I will not say.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] How much severance pay did those SB functionaries who failed the personnel review receive?

[Milczanowski] The amount they received is laid down by service rules, in other words concrete legal provisions.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] How much is the severance pay?

[Milczanowski] It depends on the number of years worked.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] Please tell me how much.

[Milczanowski] I do not remember. I would have to consult the table; otherwise, I would give you the wrong figure.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] I have heard that an intelligence officer dismissed from the service, a colonel who failed the personnel review, was rehired and did not give back his severance pay.

[Milczanowski] I know who you mean. He has not been rehired; however, I am not hiding the fact that I am considering rehiring him.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] The UOP consists of intelligence and counterintelligence. In this sphere, the UOP's work is based on operational activity. How are collaborators recruited?

[Milczanowski] In various ways. They might have an unselfish desire to collaborate. Some might consider it their patriotic duty. Some of our agents work with us for material motives. Some coercion may be applied at times. I must, however, deny the general opinion that coercion equals blackmail. Let me also add that coercion only occurs in exceptional circumstances. There is no question of physical pressure, of course.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] If coercion is not blackmail, then what is it?

[Milczanowski] Right now, people are hysterical about an entire series of matters. If we acted in accordance with such a view, then the special services would be incapable of functioning. Methods of recruiting are more or less the same all over the world. Only the scale of motivation varies. The recruiting principles applied by the UOP are no different from the ones applied by the special services of democratic Western countries.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] Please describe how special services may pressure a potential agent.

[Milczanowski] If collaboration is to be effective, it must be based on a firmer foundation than blackmail or coercion. If there is any uncertainty about an agent, there is always the likelihood that he will not discharge his tasks diligently. He may also become a danger to his employers. He may begin to work for the enemy. An officer who decides to recruit someone with the aid of coercion must realize that a lack of complete willingness on the part of the recruit could endanger the work of the UOP. I also stress that even with this type of recruitment, the decision to collaborate always rests with the person being recruited.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] That does not answer my question, but thank you all the same for those general conclusions. Let me ask you, how much does it cost to maintain the UOP?

[Milczanowski] The budgets of special services are secret, but I can tell you that the UOP budget is many times smaller than the police budget.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] How is the intelligence service financed? As we know, it was self-financing in the past.

[Milczanowski] We finance intelligence out of the state budget.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] If the new president and prime minister invite you to stay on at the UOP, will you do so?

[Milczanowski] I view the political changes calmly. I am not clinging to my position. I can assure you that if I do not remain at this post, I will not be unhappy.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] When I asked you for an interview several months ago, I also managed to ask you about your political views. I understand that you report to the government and prime minister.

[Milczanowski] The basis of activity by the UOP and its chief is the Office for the Protection of the State Act. That act lays down our tasks and our methods of functioning. Thank God we are apolitical. I am very careful not to let our institution become a tool in anyone's hands.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] In conclusion, would you like to share any special thoughts about the UOP?

[Milczanowski] Yes. First, the UOP leadership's task is to communicate to political circles the degree of danger to the state's security. On their part, the political circles must express a desire to combat this danger. Then we can make plans and carry out appropriate actions. Coming back to the personnel employed in the UOP, something that excites the press so much, one must answer the question whether or not the Polish intelligence and counterintelligence are meant to perform any work over the next two or three years. If they are, then one must have confidence in SB functionaries. Those who have been accepted into the UOP are professionals, often of a high caliber. I am convinced that the special services must work continuously, without a break. The dangers 10 or 15 years ago were not as great as they are today. In the past, the work of the special services was directed against the West. The Warsaw Pact countries were ignored. Border traffic was relatively small. In a small number of cases, the militia or special services had dealings with organized crime of an international nature. The danger of terrorism was minimal. Compare that with the situation today. Hence there is a need for the work of the Polish special services, composed of professionals, to be as efficient as possible. Let me add that our intelligence has pulled off several major successes during the few months of the UOP's existence. For obvious reasons, I cannot provide any further details. Officers of the investigative section of counterintelligence and other services have also done a lot of work.

I think that a basic factor determining efficient work is the integration of former SB functionaries with those who have joined us or are about to join us from outside. They should all be treated and assessed the same way. I apply the following assessment criterion: good work, combined with loyalty to the Republic. That is my vision of cadres policy. If it is neglected, I will resign.

[Ciechanowicz-Sarata] Thank you for the interview.

Gulf Military Operations Termed 'Justified'

AU1701094891 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 0900 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Statement by Government Spokesman Bogdan Baltazar; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] On 17 January 1991, at 0200 hours Bucharest time, the State Department contacted the Romanian ambassador to Washington by telephone and told him that President Bush ordered the U.S. troops to initiate—together with its allies—combat operations against the Iraqi troops and that the U.S. troops have been ordered to attack targets both in Iraq and Kuwait. It was emphasized that the purpose of the action is to implement the UN Security Council resolutions and to liberate Kuwait.

At 0415 hours, the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest conveyed our minister of foreign affairs several considerations in connection with the start of combat operations in the Gulf area. Among other things, it emphasized that the U.S. President ordered the start of these actions after consultations with the main members of the international coalition and that, although military and strategic targets in Iraq will be hit, their aim is to liberate Kuwait. The U.S. Embassy recalls that all diplomatic efforts to date were rejected by Iraq and emphasizes that Iraq can that Iraq can still avoid complete withdrawal from Kuwait. The U.S. Embassy expresses the desire to continue consultations with the Romanian Government, in step with further developments.

It is a fact that the invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi troops on 2 August 1990 was a serious violation of international law and created a particularly tense situation in the Gulf area, thus jeopardizing international peace and security. In this respect, Romania's Government considers the outbreak of military operations in the Gulf as justified and in accordance with Security Council Resolution 678, which authorizes the states cooperating with the Kuwaiti Government to use all necessary means to ensure the implementation of the Security Council resolutions, if Iraq fails to implement them by 15 January 1991.

In the past five and a half months since the invasion of Kuwait, Romania has done its best to make its own contribution to these efforts, both within the Security Council and in bilateral contacts with the parties in conflict. At the same time, it welcomed the U.S. initiative to enter into a direct dialogue with Iraq and, when that dialogue failed, Romania adopted a positive attitude toward the UN Secretary General's and France's initiatives for a peaceful settlement as well as toward any other initiative aimed at avoiding a military confrontation.

Even now, after the start of military hostilities, the Iraqi Government can and must take the necessary steps to withdraw its troops from Kuwait, which would lead to an end of the fighting, thus avoiding new human and material losses. The future, which can only conceived in a framework of peace, belongs to all peoples, and the Iraqi people is vitally interested in building an order of law and justice in the region.

Iliescu Issues Statement

AU1701114091 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1100 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Statement by President Ion Iliescu after National Defense Supreme Council meeting in Bucharest on 17 January—recorded]

[Text] We reviewed the information received on the situation [words indistinct] in the Gulf. In the light of this information, we endorsed a Romanian Government statement on these events. We were also (?briefed) on measures taken at home on the military plane and by the Ministry of Interior. [Words indistinct] government economic measures, which should ensure measures of interior security for all possible consequences of the Gulf conflict.

On this basis, we examined concrete measures to strengthen the guarding of main economic units and border-checks, including measures to restrict the fraudulent smuggling of vital objects and [words indistinct] out of the country, and a number of other similar measures [words indistinct].

As mentioned in the government statement, that action is based on Security Council decisions—on the relevant Security Council resolution—including the request that the Iraqi Government should withdraw its troops from Kuwait [words indistinct]. Therefore, (?this action) is justified and substantiated by these Security Council acts to which I have just referred.

Roman Establishes Special Gulf Task Force

AU1601114791 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1019 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 17/1/1991—A special group of the Supreme Council of the country's defense, presided over by Prime Minister Petre Roman, was set up on January 15.

The group met twice already, to analyze the political and military developments in the Gulf. It assessed the implications of the Gulf situation for Romania and established the modalities of action to protect the Romanian citizens in the zone.

The group heard a report on the application of the steps taken by the Ministry of National Defense, the Ministry of the Interior and the Romanian Intelligence Service for the protection of the national security interests.

The special group is called again today, January 16.

Possible Measures Discussed

AU1601194091 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1647 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 16/1/1991—The special group of Romania's Supreme Council for the Country's Defence in connection with the Gulf crisis gathered on January 16, 1991, at 11 hours [as received], under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Petre Roman.

The group agreed on action to be taken by the Ministry of National Defence, the Ministry of the Interior and the Romanian Intelligence Service to protect diplomatic missions in Bucharest and their personnel. The latter will be notified about those measures by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Measures were also devised to provide adequate protection of economic units, particularly of warehouses containing explosives, fuel and other inflammable materials.

It was decided to coordinate action for a drastic custom control so as to stop goods being smuggled out of the country.

High Combat Capacity To Be Maintained

AU1601142491 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1341 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 16/1/1990— Given the complexity and seriousness of the international situation and the need to maintain a high combat capacity of the Ministry of the Interior troops, the conscripts who were to be put in reserve on January 16 continue to be in service for a short while, shows a communique of the press office in the Ministry of Interior.

The conscripts in the Ministry of the Interior, aware of the correctness of the measure adopted, are determined to further fulfill their sacred duty to Romania and the Romanian people.

President Iliescu Continues Visit to PRC

Meets Li Peng, Jiang Zemin

AU1501163291 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1536 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 15/1/1991—Tuesday morning President Ion Iliescu now on an official visit to China met with the premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, Li Peng. Approach was made mainly on the possibilities to consolidate and expand the economic collaboration between the two countries. To this end, the Joint Romanian-Chinese Economic Commission will be called soon in Beijing to detail the forms of cooperation.

At the end of the talks the Chinese premier stated to the ROMPRES special correspondent: "I have exchanged opinions with President Ion Iliescu concerning the bilateral relations and the international situation, aspects connected with our economic collaboration and the economic reforms in the two countries. The results of these talks are very good. I am convinced that this visit will contribute to the mutual knowledge and understanding, to progress and development in our countries."

In the afternoon, Mr. Iliescu met with a group of Chinese businessmen and scientists.

The Romanian president also met with executives of the democratic parties as well as with Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party.

During a press conference Tuesday evening, the Romanian president met with Romanian and foreign press correspondents now in China's capital city and answered their questions.

Meets With Other Officials

AU1501183591 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1849 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 15/1/1991—Romania's President Ion Iliescu discussed with Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, on themes linked with the relations between Beijing and Bucharest. The opportunity was taken to exchange opinions on current international issues.

Mr. Jiang Zemin said he followed with interest the changes in Romania after the December revolution and he respected the Romanian people's wishes and options for their future.

Tuesday afternoon Mr. Ion Iliescu, Romania's president, met with a group of scientists, with leaders of democratic parties and of the Federation of Industry and Commerce. The interviews occasioned a wide exchange of information on current developments in the activity of the two countries in relevant fields. An introduction was made of the changes that took place in Romanian society after the revolution, as well as of the transformation processes initiated in all areas and fields of activity.

The Romanian side was interested to learn about the ways envisaged to renew social, political and economic life in China and about steps meant to give a new dimension to China's individuality and to its presence and action at a world level.

Holds News Conference

AU1501201891 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1932 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 15/1/1991—During the press conference held in the Parliament House in Beijing, Romanian President Ion Iliescu appreciated as positive his entire visit in China. President Iliescu underscored that "the visit to China represented a political

moment marking the mutual interest for the consolidation and development of the friendly, traditional relations between our countries."

Romania, further said, is not the only one interested in China. China is a great power, a country now in a process of outstanding development and which persistently implements its economic reforms programme. China is experimenting interesting forms of economic collaboration and of foreign capital investment which are obvious in the southern regions. A team of Romanian experts will come here to study this relevant experience in these regions, Mr. Iliescu said, stating: We are interested in developing and consolidating both our political and economic relations as well as the relations in other fields—science, education, culture.

On the economic plane, China is one of our most important partners. We should also review the way to develop and the means to expand bilateral, mutually advantageous relations.

The joint commission of collaboration between the two countries is to be held in Beijing soon; the Romanian delegation will be led by a prime minister's assistant and will discuss the concrete aspects of the Romanian-Chinese collaboration.

As far as the international issues are concerned, he added, we have reached common conclusions, broad consensus and collaboration. A positive experience was the collaboration within the Security Council.

We have had a very busy, two-day programme, the Romanian president concluded, with useful talks which are to end Wednesday morning by the signing of four agreements between Romania and China: a consular convention, an agreement to avoid double imposition, an agreement on legal assistance and a programme for the cultural exchanges over 1991-1993.

Discusses Bulgarian Pollution

AU1501200091 Sofia BTA in English 1911 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Beijing, January 15 (BTA)—At a press conference here, in response to the BTA correspondent's question, Romanian President Ion Iliescu said that Romania sets great store by its relations with Bulgaria, especially due to the common history of solidarity and struggle against foreign aggression. Ion Iliescu also declared his personal friendliness towards Bulgarians. In connection with the ecological pollution in Ruse, however, he stated that "the problem is somewhat exaggerated by some forces in Bulgaria and by representatives of the local authorities in Ruse." The basic sources of pollution do not exist, Iliescu said, because the chlorosoda plants have been out of operation for a year now. "There are sources of pollution in Ruse, too. Romanian and Bulgarian experts studied the sources both in Ruse and in Giurgiu. The problems to be solved are mainly on Bulgarian territory," he said. The president also added that the problems should be studied together and should not be used to cause tension in the bilateral relations dominated by friendship. He said the Romanian part was "much more worried" by the operation of the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant, which had to be investigated with the cooperation of the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency], yet Romania did not problemize it.

Stops in New Delhi, Returns Home

AU1601210391 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 2000 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] A few minutes ago, Romanian President Mr. Ion Iliescu returned from his official visit to the PRC at the invitation of that country's president.

After his three-day official visit to the PRC, President Iliescu made a two-hour stopover in New Delhi, where he had a meeting with the Indian Prime Minister. The two leaders reiterated the need to do everything possible to avoid a war in the Gulf, because an armed conflict in that region can have unforeseeable consequences. Likewise, during the meeting the sides examined bilateral ties. The Romanian president briefed his host on the political and economic changes that have occurred in Romania and on steps for the transition to market economy. The two leaders spoke out for expanding the bilateral political dialogue and cooperation. To this end, they decided to convene the Joint Economic Cooperation Commission as soon as possible.

Statement Upon Return

AU1701101491 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0922 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 17/1/1991—President Ion Iliescu came back to Bucharest Wednesday, January 17, after his visit to the People's Republic of China, at the invitation of President Yang Shangkun.

The statement made to the press at the Otopeni Airport says inter alia: "We can consider this visit to have been positive in all respects. We had high level contacts and talks with China's president, with the Council of State's premier, with the secretary general of the Chinese Communist Party, with representatives of the democratic parties in the Consultative Political Council, with representatives of men of science, with the heads of China's Academy of Sciences. Everywhere we enjoyed a particularly friendly atmosphere.

Our Chinese hosts paid particular attention to our visit. They were interested in the processes under way in Romania and had a friendly attitude towards the efforts made by our people to change the political, economic, social life of the country.

Mutual interest was shown in strengthening the traditional relations between our two countries,in turning to good account the new possibilities existing today, to

consider also the transitional phase Romania is passing through, to find ways that could help us consolidate and develop bilateral economic, technico-scientific relations. We appreciated the way the whole visit and these talks were held and consider our bodies must be very well prepared for the meeting of the joint commission of technico-scientific cooperation to be held soon, in order to be able to take concrete steps in bilateral cooperation. China must remain one of our important partners, considering its potentialities, the role it plays in the international political life, its natural resources, the dynamics of its economic and social development. Of late it made remarkable progress in agriculture and industry as well. Therefore it is one of our important markets and a remarkable partner for our future development.

I should also mention the visits and contacts we had on our way to China, in Pakistan, and on our way back, in India.

Pakistan's president and its prime-minister, other members of the government extended a friendly receival to us. In India we met the prime minister. Both countries showed the same interest in developing bilateral relations. There are good, favourable conditions along this line.

Iliescu's Presidency; Visit to Beijing Criticized

AU1601192191 Bucharest DREPTATEA in Romanian 9 Jan 91 p 1

[Constanta Munteanu article: "The Moscow-Beijing-Bucharest Link"]

[Text] The Orthodox communists in Beijing support the aberant theses of the most criminal of utopias and, just like the odious defunct one from Scornicesti [reference to Ceausescu] did, criticize any sign of improving the situation—such as "socialism with a human face" and "market socialism"—saying that it represents a giving up or an unacceptable departure from the building of the diabolic paradise.

Although the CPSU legally gave up its "leading role," Gorbachev refuses to leave the leadership of the Communist Party and associates himself with KGB and Army generals to implement a dictatorship that attempts to preserve communism and the empire. For Kryuchkov, the head of the KGB, just like for Himmler, the elimination of communism is equivalent to the apocalypse of human nature.

Mr. Iliescu, wishing to become president not as a result of a "mere" electoral victory, but through the "heroism" of the gangs of proletarian terrorism, on 15 June 1990 paid homage to the "people's democracy," the equality seeking society, and the "combat spirit." For Mr. Iliescu, as Ceausescu's proper successor, the collapse of communism is due to a "European scenario" and the choice is only between communism and fascism.

In Beijing, Moscow, and Bucharest, the heads of the political police and army generals are always ready to support communism, even through mass reprisals. The KGB has elimination lists "if it becomes necessary" which include personalities who belong to the opposition. The gangs acted in June in Bucharest according to a similar idea and Mr. Iliescu pledged before them to deal with opposers in special, semi-legal ways, and to deal "with each case individually."

After meeting Gorbachev in Paris, Mr. Iliescu goes for a visit to Beijing—where he has not been since 1971, when he was deputy member of the Political Executive Committee and secretary of the Romanian Communist Party Central Committee and Ceausescu's presumable successor. We can very well imagine what a comradely exchange of experience will take place with the oppressors of the Tiananmen Square, whom, as a matter of fact, Mr. Iliescu wants to congratulate. We are expecting with interest the result of the enlightenment that Mr. Iliescu will reach on the high pinnacles of red Asia. We could see the preparation for this distinguished visit in Alba Iulia and in his attitude toward [former] King Mihai.

The new international alliance, however—advocated by Ceausescu—will not be able to save communism, this tragic parenthesis in history.

Joint Canadian Meeting Held; Cooperation Viewed

AU1601205891 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1938 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 16/1/1991—The 15th session of the Joint Romanian-Canadian Governmental Commission for promotion of trade and economic cooperation that was held in Bucharest came to an end. It occasioned an exchange of information on the two countries' economic situation. The parties analysed the stage of economic and industrial cooperation and the possibilities to intensify it, the commercial exchanges between Romania and Canada and prospects to develop them, as well as other issues of mutual interest.

The Canadian side gave a positive appreciation to the Romanian economic reform and the process of transition to a market economy, considering that a new basis had been created for further development of bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Reviewing the stage of cooperation in the nuclear field, the two parties expressed their interest to complete and put into operation thermonuclear unit No. 1, as a top priority. Unit No. 2 is also to be put into service as soon as possible. The joint wish was highlighted to continue collaboration for units No. 3, 4 and 5.

The parties also agreed to cooperate in priority projects for the agriculture and food industry and declared themselves ready to organize an expert meeting.

The parties expressed their interest to expand and intensify economic cooperation and participate in the process

of modernization and retechnologization of Romanian economy in such fields as the aircraft industry, metallurgy, resources, natural gas and oil, cellulose and paper, geology, chemistry and petrochemistry, electrical power and environmental protection. The Canadian side agreed to give consideration to Romania's request for expert training in banking, stock exchange, management, agriculture and other fields.

The Canadian side also introduced a new programme which applies to eastern Europe and includes Romania, whose costs will be shared with Canadian companies, for courses and specialized training within those companies.

The parties agreed that the 16th joint Romanian-Canadian session take place in Ottawa in 1991 at a date to further convened.

Antigovernment Rally Held in Timisoara

AU1601205991 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1857 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 16/1/1991—A meeting was staged Wednesday in the Union Square of Timisoara by the "Timisoara" Federation of the Free Trade Unions of Timis County. Federation leaders and representatives of other unions on strike voiced their disappointment in the contents and results of the dialogue with the two governmental commissions who had been present in Timisoara over the last few days. Some enterprises announced at the meeting they would continue general strike. Leaders of the "Timisoara" federation and other union leaders are to go on hunger strike starting Thursday, January 17, at federation headquarters. Participants in the meeting shouted anticommunist, antigovernmental and antipresidential slogans and urged for a general strike.

The meeting proceeded in calm and order.

Inquiry Commission Report on Tirgu Mures Conflict

AU1701094391 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2159 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 16/1/1991—During a joint session of the two chambers of Romania's Parliament held Wednesday afternoon, deputy N.S. Stanescu—the National Salvation Front—presented the report of the commission inquiring into the events having taken place in Tirgu Mures over March 19-20.

The conclusion of this document is worded as follows:

Romania's Parliament and the national public opinion—both under the sign of the deepest and most genuine pluralism—are at a crossroads: they either embark upon the difficult path of real democratic recovery of Romania from the European perspective of the 90s, or feed recurrent anachronical social-national phenomena which, several times this century, have proved their damaging and bankrupt nature from a national point of view. These are our alternatives; we express our hope that we shall be able to choose that variant leading to the development of the bases of a democratic life in Romania, to the triumph of the good.

The document, totalling 58 typed pages plus many appendices, begins with a chapter of "Preliminary Remarks" which presents the documentary sources, the specific way of approaching and the structure of the report, followed by other three chapters titled: "General and Specific Causative Factors of the Crisis of the Interethnical Relations in Tirgu Mures," "Course of the Events" and "Final Conclusions and Proposals."

The last of the three contains the following diagnosis of the political crisis in Tirgu Mures: It was just one of the most heated events of the "restoring" processes initiated by our revolution. It is not only the tension accumulated in an ethnic conflict, painfully prolonged, that is the main cause of the crisis, but primordially the new factors and the new type of processes that have been developing in our post-revolution society. Certainly, as one could see, specific ethnic elements have been drawn into the "causative chain "but they burst out and got more marked in the structure of the restoring processes initiated and developing in the post-revolution period.

Speaking about the significance of the crisis for the post-totalitarian evolution of the Romanian society, the report mentions three variants: 1) a symptom of the difficult but firm path towards a democratic political regime or, on the contrary; 2) a symptom of the deadlock of such a necessary evolution; 3) or, even more, a symptom of the perpetuation (or recurrence) of the tendencies of reinstating (at least partially) the old totalitarian methods and objectives.

Considering the above question and the three variants of its answer as the "keystone" of the whole analysis, the inquiry commission is of the opinion that two diametrically opposed variants should be outlined in the process of working out the strategies concerning inter-ethnic relations:

Either it is understood and accepted that the transition to an authentically democratic political regime implicitly presupposes a "toll" that has to be paid, and in this case, the Parliament's optics, attitude respectively vis-a-vis the Tirgu Mures crisis acquires the seriousness, lucidity and civic responsibility so necessary at present; or the inherent character of the "toll" to be paid in the transition to democracy is rejected, and in this case a subjective social-political optics is developed which amplifies civic illusions, confusion and fears, all becoming the main raw material for factors that can, but do not understand, or do not want to restrict the sphere and pace of zonal or national politically destabilizing processes.

In the commission's opinion Parliament must opt for the first variant which it considers the only alternative that accords with the truth and with the requirements of the furtherance of the fight for democracy by exclusively democratic means and forms.

The final chapter of the report dwells on the strategic functions of the first variant and on the main operational landmarks such a strategy presupposes.

Government Criticizes 'Campaign' on Orphans

AU1601114391 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1005 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 16/01/1991—"It is with bitterness and amazement that we find out about a new campaign in connection with orphan, abandoned, and handicapped children in Romania, which is beginning to be launched by some American press stated Government Spokesman Bogdan Baltazar at his Tuesday, 15 January news briefing. Involved in this operation are lawyers, doctors, middlemen, and the whole chain of soul-traffickers, who have turned this humanitarian action into a hard-currency profit-making business.

The finding is not only ours. The 7 January 1991 issue of the "Washington Post" carries an article about "the appearance of charlatans drawing profits from a critical situation".

To put an end to these immoral and illegal actions, the government has set up an adoption board which is now on the point of commencing its activities both in Bucharest and in the territory through its county branches. The board is authorized, among other things, to see that no material profit is derived from mediation of adoptions other than legally due, as provided by international law and moral standards. Adoption, added the spokesman, is a generous, commendable act as long as it abides by the law and by the commonly accepted moral criteria, pursuing a strictly humanitarian purpose. But when both legality and morality are eluded, the authorities must take a firm stand.

Mr. Baltazar seized the opportunity to invite the mass media representatives to depict nursing institutions and children's situation in Romania in their true light, recording not only the worse but also the better achieved during the much troubled past year and in circumstances far from favorable.

Senate Adopts Law on Land Stock 16 Jan

AU1601194191 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1638 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 16/1/1991—Wednesday, January 16, the Senate adopted the bill on the land as proposed by the government and with some amendments. This normative act was accepted with only 10 abstentions of opposition senators.

This document considered as the most important law owing to the diverse situations in the Romanian agriculture was debated with priority. The debates lasted almost a month they began on December 19 in Prime Minister Petre Roman's presence.

Congratulating his colleagues for the effort to finalize the document, the president of the Senate, Alexandru Barladeanu, stated that that was in fact a law of agricultural reform which changed the property and nature of agricultural production. Admitting that the law might have shortcomings because no agricultural reform has ever been perfect the speaker emphasised its historical importance. He underscored that the law could become effective only if accompanied by measures concerning credits, prices, etc.

The Parliament's lower house continues to debate the bill on the land. If it reaches another variant, a joint mediation commission of senators and deputies will be called upon.

Government Meeting Examines Economic Matters

AU1601195091 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1851 16 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 19/1/1991—Gathered on 16 January, Romania's Government approved concrete modalities so that starting January all economic agents could experimentally apply the procedure of setting salaries through negotiations between administration councils and employees within the limits of the financial possibilities of each economic company, autonomous enterprise and economic unit under reorganization. Premises are thus created for a correlation, in keeping with the laws of the market economy, between the level of salaries and the level of profits and, in general, of the economic-financial results of each economic agent.

According to the communique released at the end of the meeting the government decided to step up the elaboration of the new regulations regarding exploitation, transport and selling of forest wood, to enhance the powers of silvicultural inspectorates as concerns control and punishment of violation of norms in force.

In connection with the recent setting up of the "Renel" autonomous enterprise, the government decided the cessation of the activity of the Electric and Thermal Energy Department of the Resource and Industry Ministry.

The government decided the creation of the Romanian Adoption Committee, a governmental body with powers as regards the protection of under-aged through adoption and international cooperation in the field.

The government discussed and adopted resolutions concerning other domains of national interest such as: the regulation of the building of units of the extractive and power industries on agricultural and forest land; the setting up of autonomous enterprises and commercial companies in various economic sectors.

Foreign Secretary Urges Iraq To Reconsider

AU1701104691 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0900 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Interview with Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs, by Mihajlo Kovac; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Kovac] Here we have Mr. Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs, head of an institution that has made much effort to come to a peaceful solution. Mr. Loncar will make a statement on the occasion of these unpleasant events.

[Loncar] We are very sorry and very concerned about the beginning of the war in the Gulf. As you have stressed, we have invested huge efforts regarding the beginning of the war, and now we see they were unsuccessful. We will now invest all efforts with a view to ending this war as soon as possible and will do so with as few casualties as possible. Of course, we will have to return to the beginning, to the very fact that there was an aggression by Iraq against Kuwait on 2 August and that the crisis started then. The basic principles of international law started to be violated then, and the entire international public and entire [word indistinct] diplomacy then began to mobilize, asking Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and therefore, of course, put a stop to what happened.

I think the solution is that Iraq—confronted with such a catastrophic present situation, that is, the beginning of the war—should once more reexamine its decision in the interest of its own people. That is, avoiding and reducing human losses, as well as avoiding the possibility of catastrophic consequences. They should withdraw from Kuwait, so that we can return to the status that existed before 2 August and that the world can finally return to peace and to the strengthening of the principles lying in the basis of the entire world organization and its (?charter), and, if you like, this peace that is now being threatened.

[Kovac] Mr. Loncar, do you believe that it is possible that world diplomacy and the international community can now launch some new actions and initiatives in order to at least alleviate the intensity of this war—only to be able to stop it completely—and with what means should this be achieved?

[Loncar] I think that what we should do now is to concentrate on an action that would amount to not having to wage war to the very end, but still to reach these original aims. The president of Iraq has so far obviously refused to understand that grave consequences to the region may ensue—and mostly to Iraq and its people—if he fails to withdraw from Kuwait, that is, if he fails to annul what he calls annexation and what we call aggression.

Therefore, one should rationally take the view that the war does not have to end by the capitulation of Iraq itself, but that actions should continue to be concentrated on its withdrawal.

[Kovac] Thank you very much for this first statement.

Jovic Denies Army Dictatorship Rumors

LD1601163191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2129 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Vranje, January 14 (TANJUG)—President of the Presidency of Yugoslavia Borisav Jovic on Monday denied rumours that the Yugoslav Army wants to impose a military dictatorship and said that its task is to protect the constitutional order and provide for a democratic and peaceful settlement of the crisis.

Addressing a political rally at Vranje in southern Serbia, Jovic explained that the order to civilians to turn in all weapons, issued by the Presidency on Wednesday [9 January], was aimed at preventing possible inter-ethnic conflicts.

"Arming on the national or party basis" took place in some multi-national areas, said Jovic. He warned of the danger of a "fratricidal war" in these areas "in case of some future misunderstandings over secession."

That is why "all those who have weapons distributed to them in violation of the legal regulations, past the police or the territorial defence of the Yugoslav People's Army, must turn in these weapons," explained Jovic.

He did not say what multinational areas he has in mind and to what armed forces the order relates specifically.

At the moment the situation is strained the most in Croatia where the Serbian population of some areas, claiming that the new Croatian authorities endanger them, proclaimed an autonomous region and organized their own police, which the Croatian authorities consider non-legitimate.

A section of the Yugoslav press wrote recently that the Croatian and Slovenian territorial defence were armed with weapons smuggled in from abroad and that the Croatian authorities had formed an all-Croatian special police force.

Jovic said today that only the peoples in Yugoslavia have the original right to raise the question of secession, but it must be dealt with in a constitutional way that would suit all.

Several peoples live in individual Yugoslav republics and Jovic believes that "they all as whole entities must have the possibility to declare themselves whether or not they want to live in a common state."

"The fate of other peoples cannot be decided by means of outvoting within the framework of one republic," he said.

Defense Statement on Disarming Illegal Groups

LD1701103691 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1024 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Statement issued by the Information Department of the Federal Secretariat for National Defense in Belgrade on 15 January]

[Text] Belgrade, 15 Jan (TANJUG)—In connection with the order of the SFRY Presidency on the disarming and disbanding of illegal armed formations, the Information Department of the Federal Secretariat for National Defense is authorized to announce the following:

The competent services have at their disposal irrefutable proof of the completely illegal method of the formation and arming of paramilitary armed formations and the preparing of them for the carrying out of sabotage, terrorist, and other violent actions. If the order of the SFRY Presidency is not carried out in its entirety, these crushing facts will be stated publicly in the framework of the proceedings against the perpetrators of these serious criminal acts. Each person to whom the order relates should bear in mind that the illegal armed formations will be disbanded and disarmed, either in the manner and within the period of time set out in the order, or by the application of sanctions as set out in the law.

District Commander on Army Depoliticization

AU1601134391 Ljubljana NEODVISNI DNEVNIK in Slovene 3 Jan 91 p 6

[Interview with Colonel General Konrad Kolsek, commander of the Fifth Army District, by Milan Meden and Robert Mecilosek; place and date not given: "We Fail To Sufficiently Respect the Specific Features of the Republics"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Excerpts] "Regarding our state, which has experienced a crisis and has had a heavy burden with the economic and political search for rational solutions to the problems in the internal political organization and economic development, we are faced with large differences among the republics about ways to remove these problems, in the relations between the federal state and the republics, as well as the future relations between society and armed forces. I think that we do not pay enough regard to the specific features of the individual peoples and republics, something that represents an obstacle in solving many questions concerning our joint homeland."

This is one of the thoughts that Colonel General Konrad Kolsek, commander of the Fifth Army District, expressed in an interview to NEODVISNI DNEVNIK. [passage omitted]

[NEODVISNI DNEVNIK] Depoliticization of the Army is something that is much talked about today. If we listened to some extreme suggestions, we can even conclude that some people want to turn soldiers into second-rate political citizens and, at the same time, turn top military experts into real automatons. How do you in the Army assess these polemics, that is, intentions concerning regular national euphorias, which have in certain cases grown into ideological prejudices, into nationalism as a universal category? We are not asking you about what the Army would or would not do, but what are the limits to what the Army leadership could decide in that respect?

[Kolsek] This advocation of army depoliticization is a pure illusion. No army in the world is built outside the basic trends of the society to which it belongs. All armies in the world are in the service of the constitutional order and political system of the society they belong to. Thus, viewed both theoretically and practically from the political point of view, they are in fact political organizations.

Why Only in Slovenia?

Therefore, the depoliticization of the Army cannot be limited to the question of the possibility of organizing parties within it. If this is the case, then it is a departyization, that is, banning the activity of all parties in the army organization. We decided in favor of it out for two reasons. The first is to ensure an equal position to all parties whose activity is legal. The second reason is that, because of their specific features and the need to preserve firmness and homogeneity in their ranks, the Armed Forces cannot stand party competition. When people speak about depoliticization of the Yugoslav People's Army, one most frequently hears the proposition that our Army appeared as a party army and not a people's army. This assertion is completely opposite the truth, both as regards the essence of our Army and as regards the contribution of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia, that is, the League of Communists of Yugoslavia in building it up. The League of Communists of Yugoslavia has persisted in stressing the people's character of our army and nobody whose intentions are good can deny that.

[NEODVISNI DNEVNIK] Regarding depoliticization of the Yugoslav People's Army, what is most obvious there is that the activity of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, the only political party in the Yugoslav People's Army, has been interrupted.

[Kolsek] The decision to ban the activity of parties in the Army has not been made just like that. Uninformed people criticize us, saying that we are slow and that we do not follow events, but they do not take into consideration the complicated nature of the army mechanism. The decision is in fact the result of the evaluation of the actual political situation and the need to protect the Army—as the people's and Yugoslav army—from the destructive impact of interparty competition. One can also hear individual people wanting to deny members of the Yugoslav People's Army the right to any political activity.

[NEODVISNI DNEVNIK] Military-territorial organs are well-known institutions in any armed force that uses them to help it perform the following two tasks: recruitment in peacetime and mobilization in times of war.

Some military districts and branches in our country, however, have been abolished. Why is it so? They have now been re-established, but only in Slovenia. Why only in Slovenia?

[Kolsek] Your conclusion about the authority and sphere of the activity of military-territorial organs applies only partly. Military-territorial organs do not serve only for recruitment in the peacetime and mobilization in times of war. What is involved are conceptual solutions. We have abolished these districts and branches because of the principle of socialization of all defense preparations and the unified system of the country's defense.

Measures Result From the Decision of the Federal Executive Council

What is involved are military and professional activities, and in almost all armies they are in the competence of military services. In this way one ensures the unity of the Armed Forces and the unity of the country's defense system. It is not true that military-territorial organs are planned only for Slovenia. The Federal Secretariat for National Defense has taken an initiative of adopting a law that will regulate this sphere, and this means that it will apply to the whole of Yugoslavia. The reason we started this in Slovenia is that the attempts at violating federal laws in the military sphere were most obvious there. The measures were taken in conformity with the decision of the competent body—the Federal Executive Council. [passage omitted]

Milosevic: Presidency Confederation Unacceptable

AU1601161091 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 15 Jan 91 p 5

[Statement by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic at the Presidency session on 10 January: "Slobodan Milosevic: 'Serbs Are Going To Live in One State'"]

[Text] The approach that Yugoslavia does not exist, that only republics exist, and that the possible solutions lie in the bilateral and multilateral negotiations among the republics is not acceptable to us. On the contrary, Yugoslavia does exist, it has its institutions, and changes should be made in a legal way, that is, through Yugoslav institutions in which the republics are free to act in conformity with their stands. This is something that nobody reasonable has ever called into question.

Second, Yugoslavia's destiny can only be decided upon by the peoples of Yugoslavia, because it was the peoples of Yugoslavia and not republics who created Yugoslavia: republics did not exist in 1918 or in 1943. The republican administrative borders cannot simply be proclaimed state borders and these republican borders do not separate individual peoples of Yugoslavia.

Third, we are of the opinion that every people has the right to freely decide its destiny. This right can be limited only by an equal right of other peoples.

Concerning the Serbian people, they want to live in one state. Therefore, in our opinion, any division into several states that would separate parts of the Serbian people and put them within separate sovereign states cannot be acceptable, more precisely, it is completely out of the question. The Serbian people will live in one state and any people wishing to live in one state together with the Serbian people on an equal footing are welcome to do so. I must say that, in our opinion, confederation is not a state.

In our opinion, a democratic federation is the right solution under the present circumstances. Of course, we agree that we should talk about the functions of such a state, that is, such a federation. As far as the Serbian people are concerned, however, one cannot talk about a solution that will divide the them among several states.

That is what I wanted to say.

Slovenes Protest Serbian Monetary Action

AU1601180191 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 9 Jan 91 p 6

[Unattributed report: "'Theft at Somebody Else's Expense'"]

[Text] Ljubljana - A memorandum addressed to Prime Minister Markovic on Tuesday regarding Serbia's incursion into the Yugoslav monetary system emphasized that "the decision of the Serbian Assembly to issue 18.2 billion dinars for its own requirements demonstrated clearly the republic's attitude towards denouement of the Yugoslav crisis."

"With this impudent, unprecedented incursion into the monetary system Serbia has probably struck a final blow to the unified economic system of Yugoslavia in an unconstitutional and illegal way, and, therefore, assumes the responsibility for economic and political consequences of such an act. Hence, the Executive Council of the Republic of Slovenia protests against the manner in which this decision has been adopted and carried out, especially against the essence of this decision which amounts to Serbia rescuing itself by stealing from other republics, which is unprecedented in the modern world," this was emphasized in the memorandum.

Reproaching the FEC [Federal Executive Council] for the delayed action, and convinced that its measures and the measures of the National Bank of Yugoslavia will put a stop to the decision, the government of the Republic of Slovenia is warning the FEC that "this act represents a serious economic and political destabilization of Yugoslavia and that it suits those who favor the undemocratic regulation of relations in Yugoslavia."

The memorandum stresses that the Executive Council of Slovenia is prepared to provide economic and political assistance to protect the Republic of Slovenia from the effects of such an act, and at the same time dismisses

claims that it was Slovenia which started the disobedience in the country and undermined the FEC measures. In response to the incursion into the monetary system of the country, the Republic of Slovenia, as stated in the memorandum, will take "complete control of the turnover tax system. The Republic of Slovenia will contribute to the federal budget certain amounts of money, which regarding Slovenia, will enable the minimal functioning of the federal administration and Yugoslav People's Army, provided that its contributions are used for clearly defined and worthwhile purposes."

Kosovo Officials: Results of Presidency Talks

LD1501192691 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2240 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Belgrade, Jan 14 (TANJUG)—Representatives of the province of Kosovo at last Thursday's [10 January] meeting of the Yugoslav Presidency with republican and provincial presidents said the "starting point" for all discussions on Yugoslavia's future should be the country's current Constitution.

The materials from the session, which were made public today, indicate that president of the Kosovo Presidency Hisen Kajdomcaj said that that meant that "all the country's citizens and regions must be allowed to participate in the redefining of the country's future constitutional system."

According to Kajdomcaj, any attempt to exclude Kosovo and its ethnic Albanian population from the process of agreement and adoption of decisions "would be politically unacceptable and constitutionally impermissible."

Kajdomcaj recalled that Kosovo was an integral part of the Yugoslav community, equal with others, and that "this fact must be consistently respected during every debate on the future of Yugoslavia."

Kajdomcaj stressed at the meeting that "the Yugoslav crisis will be very difficult to settle without solving the Kosovo question."

Kosovo is a province within the republic of Serbia. In the wake of an illegal attempt by the region's majority ethnic Albanian population to declare Kosovo a republic, the Serbian parliament in July last year dissolved the provincial parliament and governmment.

Kajdomcaj, himself an ethnic Albanian, demanded at the meeting that the Kosovo Assembly and government be reactivated, which he said on Thursday his compatriots in Kosovo should be allowed to decide about at a plebiscite.

Speaking at the same Presidency session, member of the Yugoslav Presidency representing Kosovo Riza Sapundziju backed the plebiscite proposal, as well as all other Kajdomcaj's stands.

Demos Urge Recognition of Baltic Sovereignty

LD1501193191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1748 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Ljubljana, January 14 (TANJUG)—The Socialist Party of Slovenia issued a statement on Monday urging the parliament and government of the northwestern Yugoslav republic to take steps with the Central European countries for their immediate recognition of the Baltic states' sovereignty.

The socialists—the fifth strongest party in the Slovenian parliament—also asked that this most developed Yugoslav republic do everything necessary to formalize the procedure for its own international recognition.

Yesterday, the Soviet troops' intervention in Lithuania was condemned by the Slovenian government composed of members of the centrist coalition Demos [United Opposition].

Late last month Demos also initiated a plebiscite in Slovenia at which a great majority of the about 1.5 million adult Slovenes voted for a sovereign and independent Slovenian state.

The Slovenian socialist leadership said that "Belgrade measures not resulting from equality-based negotiations would be considered interference in internal affairs of the republic of Slovenia" and that "any possible attempt of aggression on its territory would be interpreted as an act of hostility and occupation."

Call To Surrender Arms in Vojvodina

LD1601192591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1801 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Novi Sad, 16 Jan (TANJUG)—Whoever is found in Vojvodina without legal authorization for the possession of arms, ammunition, explosives and lethal devices, or some other forms of explosives, is requested to surrender them immediately to the nearest garrison of the Yugoslav People's Army. This was stated in today's announcement of the provincial secretariat for national defense.

The announcement was issued in connection with the order of the SFRY Presidency on disbanding all paramilitary formations that are not part of the SFRY Armed Forces or the internal affairs organs.

In its announcement to the citizens, the secretariat stresses that arms can be surrendered daily through 19 January, and that people observing this deadline will not be called to account.